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# WORLD SOCCER

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

45p

## SPAIN

* Argentina's World Cup Plans
* European Cup round-up

*Left to right* ***GREENHOFF(B), NICHOLL and STEPNEY Manchester Utd.***

World SOCCER

# BAYERN MUNICH OUT OF EUROPEAN CUP

**THERE WILL be a new name on the Champions' Cup this year, after Bayern Munich's quarter final defeat by Kiev.**

**One semi-final pairs Zurich and Liverpool — both only former semi-finalists, and the other matches Borussia Moenchengladbach and Dynamo Kiev — neither of whom have been this far before.**

**For Bayern the future looks grim. They are well placed to make the UEFA Cup next season, but what team will they have? Jupp Kapellmann, Franz Roth, Conny Torstensson and Bjorn Andersson are all approaching the end of their contracts.**

**Sepp Maier is 33 and Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Müller both 31. So far there has been little sign that Bayern have young players coming through of the quality to keep the world club champions in the forefront of European soccer.**

# Kaiser for coach?

**WEST GERMANY'S soccer hierarchy are already preparing Franz Beckenbauer for the role many cynics will say he has already held for several years — national team coach.**

The hint that the Kaiser's future is mapped out came at a Press conference in which manager Helmut Schoen's retirement next year was announced.

Schoen, the 61-year-old who followed Sepp Herberger in 1964, will retire after the Argentina World Cup bid and his place as West German manager will go to his present assistant, 44-year-old Jupp Derwall.

But how long Derwall lasts and in what role depends on how seriously Beckenbauer and Borussia Moenchengladbach's Berti Vogts take the request from FA chief Hermann Neuberger that they get ready to become joint national team coaches.

Beckenbauer's role in the West German set-up has long been the subject of critical comment.

As far back as the 1970 World Cup several of Schoen's detractors were claiming that it was the influence — even the team selection — of Beckenbauer and skipper Uwe Seeler, which lifted West Germany to third place after the early embarrassment against Morocco.

Four years further on and Beckenbauer, captain of West Germany and Bayern, was being credited with a large share of the tactical and psychological planning as Bayern rose to take the Champions' Cup and West Germany landed the World Cup in his own home stadium.

It was Beckenbauer, it was claimed, who carried out the mini-putsch which followed the 1-0 Hamburg defeat by East Germany. West Germany's changes for their next match, against Sweden, involving even the dropping of a disgruntled Uli Hoeness, Beckenbauer's Bayern team-mate.

The effect was to take some of the casual complacency away, and introduce a more direct, more racy note into the team, particularly with the introduction of Rainer Bonhof. As Beckenbauer fervently wished and desired, West Germany went on to the title.

His power has gone on growing. The following spring Bayern hit a crisis and out went coach Udo Lattek. To replace him Beckenbauer insisted — and he's made no secret of it — that Bayern pull Dettmar Cramer back from his lucrative post in the United States.

And once more Beckenbauer got his way. His prestige now, as three-times European footballer of the year, as the man set fair to set a new world record for international appearances, has never been higher.

Rumours of tax troubles, of a transfer to New York Cosmos, haven't scratched the veneer.

Beckenbauer said recently that he didn't fancy putting his future into the topsy-turvy life of a coach. Training youth teams, perhaps — club teams, no.

But a chance to step up towards the job many will say he's been fulfilling tacitly for several years, could be a very different matter.

Will Johann Cruyff, pictured in action against Belgium, play in the World Cup Finals? See pages 4 and 5.

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FRONT COVER PICTURE

Featured on our front cover this month are the Spanish national team.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS ... NAMES IN THE NEWS ... NAMES IN THE NEWS

**ARGENTINA'S latest hero is 16-year-old Diego Maradona who made his first international appearance as a substitute in the 5-1 win over Hungary. Maradona made his league debut only in October, at 15. It would have come earlier, but he had been suspended for a month after insulting the referee at the end of a friendly.**

**MIGUEL MIGUELI, the 23-year-old Barcelona defender, is out for the season after tearing knee ligaments in the UEFA Cup quarter final defeat by 2-1 in Bilbao. Migueli who, like Pirri hails from the North African Spanish enclave of Ceuta, has been the outstanding defender in the league and his loss is not just a servere blow to CFB's league hopes, but also to national team boss Ladislao Kubala.**

**DRAGOSLAV SEKULARAC, the little wizard of an inside forward who took so many defences apart for Red Star Belgrade and Yugoslavia in the late fifties and early sixties, is in trouble in Colombia. The Yugoslav whose skill was unfortunately offset by a hasty temper, has been held in jail after the car he was driving was in a crash in Bogota.**

**ROGER VAN GOOL, the Belgian forward who joined Köln last summer from Brugge for £200,000, could be joining Feyenoord. The Dutch club, now five points behind Ajax in the league, have switched their attention to him after talks with Schalke's Yugoslav midfielder, Franko Oblak, fell through. Van Gool has been unsettled, but Köln may be keener to keep him after he scored twice and hit the bar in a win over Bayern Munich.**

**STEFAN KOVACS, Rumanian coach who spent two years managing France after quitting Ajax, was back in Paris recently. His purpose was to sort out the chance of French players taking part in charity matches to raise money**

# Brazil make changes

**BRAZIL, having swapped their manager but no nearer a settled team, are through to the second round of the South American qualifiers. That was the outcome of their disappointing home draw with Paraguay in Rio.**

The final score was 1-1 — Roberto putting Brazil ahead from a fifth minute penalty, and Carlos Baez equalising for Paraguay after 54 minutes. Even though the visitors had two players sent off in the latter stages, Brazil were unable to press home an advantage.

When you bear in mind that in Paraguay, only an own goal by Jose Insfran in the 59th minute saw Brazil home, you may understand why already pressures are building up on Claudio Coutinho, whose reign began after the resignation of Oswaldo Brandao, with a 6-0 thrashing of Colombia.

Brandao quit after Brazil's poor draw away to Colombia, blaming his poor health and bitter too about the attitude of some of his players, who wanted to name the team themselves.

There was rivalry between Zico and Roberto Rivelino — solved, unwittingly, when Zico was suspended after being sent off in the 6-0 win over Colombia, in which the two schemers scored once each, and Roberto and Francisco Marinho each scored twice.

Three points from Paraguay then assured Brazil top spot in group one and a place in the second round of the qualifiers.

Chile became favourites to join them along with Bolivia, after beating Ecuador 3-0 in Santiago. Two of their goals came from skipper Elias Figueroa, generally accepted as South America's most outstanding defender.

# URUGUAY OUT

**ALREADY the first big shock of the 1978 World Cup — Uruguay, winners in 1930 and 1950, are out.**

And there won't only be tears in Montevideo about that. The elimination of the *Celeste* is an unpleasant blow to the whole tournament's financial prospects.

With Uruguay being Argentina's neighbours, it was expected that there would be a cash killing from Uruguayans crossing the River Plate to see their team in action next year.

Instead, incredibly, it is Bolivia who go through to the South American second qualifying round.

This is the most damning indictment so far of the slide from soccer grace of the country which produced Rodriguez Andrade, Obdulio Varela, Jose Santamaria, Juan Schiaffino and Carlos Borges.

For a number of years now the two big clubs, Penarol and Nacional, have been unable to maintain their domestic security and international reputations by buying top players from Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. How much ground they have lost was shown in the championship breakthrough a year ago of little-known Defensor.

Uruguay's first international setback was in 1958, when Paraguay surprisingly beat them to go to Sweden. Uruguay had competed in only three World Cups before — the 1930 and 1950 competitions which they won, and the 1954 finals in which they finished fourth after losing 4-2 to Hungary in a semi-final which remains one of the greatest of matches.

Their two goals that day were scored by their naturalised Argentine-born centre forward Juan Eduardo Hohberg, and it was Hohberg who took them into the present competition, as manager.

Not that he lasted long. He resigned after the 1-1 draw away to Venezuela and the 1-0 defeat — which proved fatal — in Bolivia. Raul Betancour took over, but by the time his appointment was announced Bolivia were virtually certain of going on thanks to their win over Uruguay and their 3-1 triumph in Venezuela.

Ovidio Mezza, Porfirio Jimenez and Miguel Aguilar were Bolivia's scorers in that match, and it was Jimenez — after just 17 minutes — who opened the scoring in La Paz in the return game against Venezuela.

After 43 minutes Carlos Aragones added a second. The pace of the game fell in the second half, and despite the fact that their team were through now, the 25,000 crowd in the Libertador Bolivar stadium started to jeer.

Seven minutes from time Venezuela's — and Uruguay's — faint hopes of a miracle were extinguished with the expulsion of Venezuela defender Sabas for dissent.

The Uruguayans still had to play Bolivia and Venezuela at home, but now those matches would be worthless.

# Cruy

**DUTCH superstar Johan Cruyff could be ready to go on back on his much-publicised decision — repeated most recently after the 2-0 Wembley win — to retire before next year's World Cup Finals.**

**I understand that Barcelona, whom Cruyff joined for a staggering £922,000 in the summer of 1973, are secretly highly optimistic that their 31-year-old captain will shortly sign a new contract for a further TWO YEARS.**

**That would take Cruyff up to 1979 and makes it almost impossible to imagine he could resist the pressures to lead Holland to Argentina next summer — assuming the 1974 runners-up qualify.**

**What has led Barcelona to press for a two-year contract?**

**The first, most vital factor, is the improved form Cruyff has shown this season which sees Barcelona back challenging for the championship they won in 1974 — his first season. Then there is the fact that — as his recent suspension proved**

## ...AMES IN THE NEWS ... NAMES IN THE NEWS ... NAMES IN THE NEWS ...

for victims of the Rumanian earthquake.

TORINO'S players have been banned from talking about the championship duel with Juventus, when they are at home. Neat comment from Suzanna Graziani, wife of top scorer Francesco: "I even have to look in the newspapers now to find out if my husband has scored a goal in practice!"

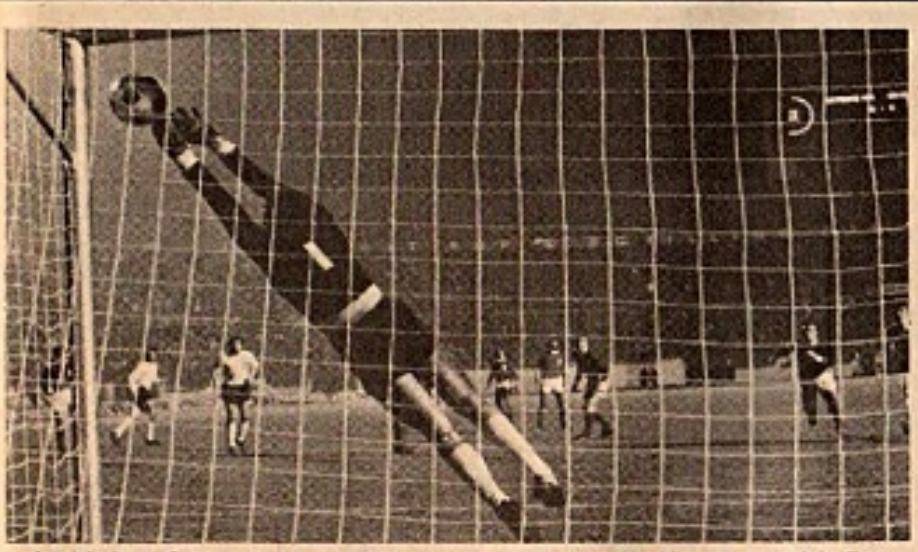
RICKY ALBERTOSI, Milan's veteran goalkeeper, had a shock when he ran out to play against Fiorentina — his old club — in Florence. There, among the ball boys behind his goal was his son Albertino! Albertosi was doubly upset when Fiorentina put a goal past him — his son was cheering with the rest as father picked the ball out of the net!

IVO VIKTOR, Dukla's 34-year-old goalkeeper who won the Czech players' award for the fourth time and finished third in Europe, is ready to retire. Viktor suffered a back injury in training at the start of the season and has been warned he may be too old to safely make a comeback.

ERICH BEER, West Germany's centre forward, played in the 1-0 defeat by France unaware that his mother died that morning. His family asked for the news to be withheld until after the game. It was a bad week for Beer. He was later lucky to escape after his car crashed on the autobahn as he drove home from the funeral in Berlin.

EUSEBIO is back in Portugal with Beira Mar, but he is still — indirectly — aiding the Benfica cause. Playing against title hopefuls Sporting Lisbon, Eusebio scored a vital equaliser which helped Benfica — winners that day — move two points clear at the top.

CLAUDIO SULSER established a Swiss scoring record with three goals in four minutes for Grasshoppers Zurich against Bellinzona.



Austria beat Greece 2-0 in a friendly international played in Vienna. Austria's first goal, pictured above, was scored by Robert Sara with Greek goalkeeper Strejoudas at full stretch.

FANS went on the rampage in Milan and Turin after games in which Torino won 1-0 away to Internazionale and Juventus beat AC Milan 2-1 in Turin.

Inter, led by Sandro Mazzola, had dominated for much of the game but lost it to an early own goal by Graziano Bini and a mob of their fans attacked Torino president Orfeo Pianelli as he left the stadium.

Pianelli escaped injury, but the windows of his car were smashed.

In Turin, where a Roberto Boninsegna penalty and a goal from Franco Causio overcame an early Gaetano Scirea own goal, Juventus fans stoned the Milan team bus after the game. Flying glass caused Milan midfielder Giorgio Morini a cut hand.

There were cuts too, this time to the face, of Lazio trainer Luis Vinicio as Perugia fans attacked the Lazio bus after Perugia's 2-0 home win. Fans from both sides were involved in scuffles around the stadium.

# ...ff may still play

— the rest of the team are totally dependent on Cruyff for leadership and inspiration.

He is enjoying his soccer much more this season — that was so obvious in the Dutch win over England. And that performance, too, has its place in the influences on Cruyff.

After the European Championship and before Wembley, it seemed Holland were going over the hill; that the Belgians might prove too much for them in the World Cup qualifiers. Even the players started to fear as much.

But the quality of the win over England has changed all that.

As far as Cruyff is concerned, there are personal reasons why he should stay on in Spain. It seems his wife has settled at last to life there and clearly, Cruyff is financially better placed to stay on in Catalonia — at least in the comparatively short term.

For several years his name has been linked with an eventual return to Ajax, but the chances have lately appeared more remote.

Cruyff's first contract with Barcelona was for three years and expired in May last year. He re-signed for one year and that is the contract now running out.

## Contract

Also with a contract running out is club-mate Johan Neeskens. Barcelona agreed terms for a new contract several weeks ago, but Neeskens — aidded of course by his manager, Cruyff's father-in-law Cor Coster — refused to sign until the matter of the falling peseta had been taken care of.

Neeskens, who joined Barcelona at £120,000-a-year in 1974, is hoping to stay at no less a figure of £180,000.

Cruyff, incidentally, now on an annual £220,000 from soccer alone, could well find his salary almost doubled if he does stay.

Another man also supposed to be staying, despite rumours to the contrary and a lot of pressure from fans, is Real Madrid coach Miljan Miljanic.

Madrid are going through perhaps their worst season for 25 years and face the prospect of missing out on Europe next season for the first time ever.

Despite this, president Santiago Bernabeu said recently after a board meeting that Miljanic "will stay to see out his contract — even if it kills him."

That was the official viewpoint. But a source inside the club has let it be known that chief youth coach, Luis Molowny, is ready to step in as caretaker should Miljanic decide he's had enough.

Mowlowny took over in mid-season in 1973-74 after pressure from the fans — similar to that which Miljanic is undergoing — forced long-serving player then manager Miguel Munoz to quit. Under Molowny Madrid ended the season by winning the Cup.

# WHIMSICAL, PASSIONATE OF ORIGINAL

## The LES

## Danny

**IN AN age of conforming faceless nonentities, Danny Blanchflower stands out as a shining beacon of originality. A one-off, a unique, very Irish Irishman, whimsical, witty, passionate, full of original ideas, thoughts.**

He looks at life and football through a fairground mirror which comically distorts the images. Clowns we all are, our existence is a farce, but observing it in the Blanchflower way, it is more happy and hopeful than tragic.

To him, 'losing gracefully' is an achievement, sticking to values which are scorned by many, is important for humanity in order to preserve its self respect.

Danny was a great player, a wing-half of vision, precision and stature. Not just a vital cog in that magnificent Tottenham machine, but its skipper, its inspiration.

He started his football at Glentoran in N. Ireland, went to Barnsley, and was bought by Aston Villa. Here, he began to realize the need to change the antiquated way League clubs are run, and had his first clash with the Establishment.

### Respected

A transfer to Tottenham followed, where after a short period of readjustments, the club's greatest ever team was created by Bill Nicholson. They did the "double" — (Cup and League), won the European Cup Winners Cup, and Danny collected a record number of 56 Irish caps.

At 38, in 1964, following a cartilage operation, he retired when told by his close friend, Nicholson, that "it was time to go". He became a respected journalist, writing in a manner of a latter-day Don Quixote — but sadly, 'the windmills he battles against' are seldom imaginary.

Father of two daughters and a University student son, Danny lives in an expensive suburb of London, near an exclusive golf club, where according to him, the membership consists of "Sidney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, gunrunners, bookmakers, millionaires and unemployed actors".

"We have a great golf gambling school there," he says. "I play-off 10 handicap, but I am not really good, because I am used to playing with a moving ball. Haven't got the patience to stand over a motionless object, waiting for the inspiration or the correct moment to hit it".

I met him at the Q.P.R. v Leeds League match (nil, nil, yawn, yawn!), and then we adjourned to the foyer of a nearby hotel to talk about football. I wanted to know about his involvement with the Tottenham manager's job a short while ago, why he accepted the N. Ireland offer to run their national team, and his opinion on other relevant aspects of the game. But after a few moments, I abandoned my carefully prepared 'questionnaire', and let Danny take over and speak to his heart's content.

One doesn't interview Blanchflower — the colleague? the ex-player? the manager? — one just listens to the flow of words, ideas, humorous recollections. Occasional remarks, interruptions, might spark-off a train of thought, but let's just listen . . .

### Fear ridden

**"When a fan goes to a match, he is always hoping that it is going to be the greatest game he has ever seen. Of course, he is disappointed, because only 10 per cent of the matches are really good, 80 per cent average and the rest terrible. It was the same in my time, although we had more intuitive players, and our football wasn't quite so fear-ridden. But the fan is entitled to criticise.**

"You say that the same man who sits in front of his television set, and accepts rubbishy programmes without a word of complaint, shouldn't consider himself an expert at a football ground either. You are wrong, because at a match, he is involved. By supporting Q.P.R. or Tottenham, he has made a commitment, he feels responsible. When he goes to work, his mates might kid him about 'his' team. When he watches T.V. he doesn't care whether the good guys win or the bad ones.

"But playing is better than watching — that's why pro. players seldom go to see games. They are too critical. Look at Brian (Glanville), he criticizes every game, but when he plays, it's a great match, the goals are all masterpieces. When Bill Nicholson felt that it was time for him to leave Tottenham, he offered me the job. We both thought that he was entitled to speak on behalf of the club, and I also felt that I owed him at least that much that I should consider it seriously.

"At that moment in time we (Spurs) could have got Francis and Givens in an exchange deal from Q.P.R., Giles from Leeds and Alan Hunter from Ipswich. But the Directors waited for Terry Neill's chairman at Hull to return from holiday. In the meantime, the situation changed, and without four or five new players, I didn't see my future at Tottenham, so I dropped out of the contest before Neill was appointed.

"As you know, the N. Ireland team was managed by Dave Clements last season. He was still a player, first with Everton, then in the U.S.A. Even N. Ireland can't be run by correspondence. Here again, I felt I owed loyalty to people like Harry Cavan and to Peter Docherty, who helped me a lot when I started my career. We have no real chance, it can't do anything for my reputation in football. But there is always a joker in the pack in the big competitions, and I would be astonished if we were the surprise packets.

"What I really want is to lose with a bit of flair.

### Variations

"If we get beaten, might as well lose 4-0 than 2-0 — so let's attack, let's surprise Holland and Belgium. We got a good draw against the Dutch in the World Cup, so Belgium were afraid of us on their own ground! That's the sickness of modern football — fear and systems. Everybody plays 4-3-3. Why? Because if they play 4-3-3, nobody can blame them if they lose. Now, if they played 2-3-5 or any other variations and they were beaten, people would say that the manager was an idiot, they wouldn't have lost if they played 4-3-3. So, everyone conforms, it is safer.

"You see, they judge you by your mistakes, the fewer mistakes you make, the better they think you are. There are players who haven't kicked a ball for 20 years, but they are accepted as useful members of the team. But if the player tries to be constructive, then he is

# WITTY, FULL IDEAS

## LE VERNON interview Banchflower

bound to make mistakes, he becomes noticeable, he is the fall-guy.

"When Best played against Cruyff in the Holland game, he made three mistakes and Cruyff made 10. But I only really noticed George's bad passes because it hurt me. Cruyff could have made 100 and he still looked tremendous to me. When teams are equal, tactics are decisive. But when a team have more talent, more character, more stamina, more confidence, they will win.

### Discipline

"Everybody copies the winners. Now, the West Germans are tops, because they are tactically, technically better than anyone else. But there was an era when the Austrians were the best. Then came the Hungarians, Real Madrid, the Brazilians — there is a constant change. So, why should people expect England to win all the time?

"Mind you, I expected them to play better against Holland. I knew that Holland would win, because they have better players, but England were very poor. Sadly, it is not just a question of football, the whole country is in a sorry state. No self-discipline, nobody wants to work. There is no hooligan problem, violence is all around us. In Uganda, South Africa, Middle East, Northern Ireland. Our dreams turned out to be false.

"After the last war, people said that this would be a land fit for heroes to inhabit. And look at the mess the politicians made of it. This is the real tragedy. It's funny how people still expect integrity in football — it is their game, their love of it is honest. In my time, we used to have a gangster come to watch us train at Tottenham. I am sure that he took "contracts" out on people, but he didn't like the rough players in the side. He used to come up to me and whisper: "Get rid of him, he is crude". One of my players in the Irish side has several brothers, all hard-cases, constantly in-and-out of jail. But when he goes home, they tell the footballer not to get into trouble with referees . . .

"Individuals have great influence on teams. All great players are ambitious, they want to do something different, they want to get even better. A Beckenbauer can find space, can create chances, and knows how to defend. Defence and attack — the two ends of the same stick. I try to motivate my players by telling them to be more constructive.

"I can't make them win, and I cannot go on the transfer market and buy an Irishman for £400,000. I tell them not to kick people. If they lose their cool, they might do something stupid, but this is instinctive not premeditated. That's why I can criticize — as a journalist — dirty players, cynical tactics. There is no conflict of interest. I am the old Irish joke. The manager whose team lost on Saturday, goes to his office as a journalist on Sunday, and criticizes himself in the paper.

"Refereeing is a problem. I would like to ask some referees a simple question — what do you have to do to get sent-off? They are too lenient, the laws of the game are administered in a lax way. The tackle from behind is vicious, it cripples players. If every time you hold the ball and get whacked, and the referee does nothing, you lose the habit of holding the ball! The offside rule creates confusion. That's good, the game needs one confusing factor. But when it comes to 'played-on' and 'not interfering with the play' — that is too much confusion. If someone is

**'That's the sickness of modern football — fear and systems!'**

not interfering with the play, what is he doing on the pitch?

"But no matter what kind of phase we are going through, I still love football. I accept there are more losers than winners. Only one team win the League etc. Doesn't matter, *the game is about playing not about winning!*" We left the hotel at the stroke of midnight. Blanchflower said: "Thank you, I have enjoyed it". So did I, Danny, so did I!

P.S. We all have our favourite Blanchflower stories, here's mine: "Danny was skippering his side in an Irish Cup tie. Before the toss-up the ref. said: "This pitch looks terrible, it won't stand-up to extra-time." Danny proposed: "In that case, let's play extra-time first!"

# ROCCO BACK IN CHARGE!

**NEREO ROCCO is back in charge at Milan, and on virtually his own terms.**

Milan president Vittorio Duina had been trying to persuade *Il Paron* back into the fold for a couple of months, since the 64-year-old who took the club to the 1963 Champions' Cup, grew tired of his role as adviser to the president.

First Pipo Marchioro, appointed coach last summer, objected, then Rocco himself demanded that if he came back Marchioro and general manager Sandro Vitali should be sacked.

Duina refused and Rocco waited, attracting an offer from *Serie B* club, Spal, in the meantime. Constantly asked *when* (not *if*) he would be returning to Milan, he retorted: "I'd rather be trainer at Spal than powerless at Milan."

The very day he was saying that, Milan reached an all-time low, being held 0-0 at home by relegation-bound Cesena, the club who've already gone through three trainers this season. To add to the bitterness of the situation, it was with Cesena that Marchioro had made his name, and there were kinder words for him from visitors' dressing room than from his own.

Also, Cesena's present coach, Paolo Ferrario, was an inside forward with Milan in the mid-sixties. San Siro certainly seems his lucky ground — it was away to Inter earlier in the season that Cesena under Ferraio, gained their first point!

## Refused

Ferraio refused to blame Marchioro for Milan's failings.

"Milan's problems all stem from the fact that they didn't plan to rebuild about five years ago. The worst thing now is that Marchioro, who is getting all the abuse, is the person least to blame. He's the best coach in Italy. The pity is that the Milan fans probably won't realise that until it's too late."

Milan's best player against Cesena, as in most of their games, was Gianni Rivera, now 33, but whose form seems to have gained from the responsibilities he holds for the present situation.

A couple of days later Marchioro was fired and Rocco took over. Vitali stayed, but it was made plain that Rocco would have full powers. This is his third spell in charge. The first was 1961-63, when he won the championship in the first season and the Champions' Cup in the second, before being tempted away to Torino.

Four years later he was back, winning the championship and the Cup-winners' Cup in his first season, then the Champions' Cup and World Club Cup the following year. In 1972 Milan won the Cup and in 1973 they retained that title while also winning the Cup-winners' Cup again.

But in February 1974, strangely enough after defeat by Marchioro's Cesena (!), Rocco

**by Keir Radnedge**

resigned after a row with the then president, Albino Buticchi. He became presidential adviser last spring after the Rivera takeover, but seemed barely interested in a position which left him without any power, and stayed away from the club after Marchioro made it plain that he resented Rocco's presence at the start of the season.

His reappointment was greeted with mixed emotions. Several of the players were clearly pleased, but one Milan player, Luciano Zecchini, an international defender now with Sampdoria, described it as a "ridiculous appointment."

Rocco's first game was away to Perugia and he boldly — or foolishly — took this opportunity to experiment with schemer Fabio Capello as sweeper. The idea was a flop and provided more fuel for the critics of Capello who are claiming that Juventus knew exactly what they were doing when they released him to Milan in exchange for Benetti last summer.

But the next week Milan trounced Sampdoria 3-0 to ease their relegation fears, and then came 1-1 draws with Fiorentina and Napoli. The long, slow climb was under way at last.

In the meantime there is confusion about who is in charge at neighbours Internazionale, as it seems more and more likely that Sandro Mazzola will move up into a position of power and quit playing at the season's end.

## Strugglers

President Ivanoe Fraizzoli hoped to replace Beppe Chiappella as coach with Luis Vinicio, the controversial Brazilian now at Lazio. But Mazzola soon put his foot down. He remembered Vinicio from their brief spell together as Inter players in the mid-sixties, and didn't rate their chances of working together too highly!

Inter remain a team of moods, playing above themselves against the better teams, and dropping silly points against the strugglers. An example was the 1-1 draw in San Siro with Foggia.

It was Inter's fifth 1-1 draw in San Siro this season, and came about despite a goal after just 90 seconds from their 27-year-old winger, Giuseppe Pavone.

Chiappella complained afterwards: "When we score quickly we get complacent, yet when we don't score we get unsettled. This team is just too bizarre for words!"

The fans didn't think so. They had plenty of words to scatter on president Fraizzoli, none of them complimentary, and also took out their displeasure on the president's car as a police guard tried to help him drive away safely.

"That was our worst game of the season," he said, not for the first time.

Vice-president Giuseppe Prisco was even more to the point. "We're in third place in the championship," he reminded everyone. "But if we're No 3 in the country, then poor Italian soccer!"

As if to emphasise what a thorn in the flesh Cesena, struggling though they are, have become to Milanese soccer, Inter were lucky to escape with a 0-0 draw when they went visiting. But that kept them third, three points ahead of Napoli and Fiorentina, albeit seven behind second-placed Torino, and eight behind Juventus.

# Ref hauled to safety

**REFEREE Antonio Falasca and his two linesmen needed a helicopter trip to safety after the crowd riots which climaxed Palermo's *Serie B* game with Ternana in Sicily.**

There was no problem in the first half, especially after Franco Cuccia put Palermo 1-0 up. But in the second the fans became restive as Palermo lost their grip and Sergio Magistrelli squeezed in the equaliser with eight minutes to go.

Even that might not have tipped the scales, but for some angry gestures several of the Palermo players made towards their own fans. The missiles started to fly then and police prepared to move in.

Three minutes from the end Falasca ruled out a 'winner' by full back Filippo Citterio of Palermo and that was the flashpoint. With the fans threatening to storm the barricades, Falasca let the game run to its end, then bolted for the safety of the dressing rooms.

The angry fans poured onto the pitch and were repulsed by salvoes of tear gas. It was only two hours later that police could clear the pitch for the helicopter to move in and fly Falasca out.

It wasn't the first time a referee had been rescued in this manner. In March 1969, after Palermo had been beaten 3-2 by Napoli, there was trouble ten minutes from time when a missile KO'd a linesman. Referee Antonio Sbardella abandoned the game and it took a bodyguard of directors and police to see him safely to his helicopter.

Those incidents earned Palermo a two-game ban from the Favorita stadium. No doubt the punishment this time will be as heavy.

That trouble at Palermo wasn't the only hooligan element to keep the riot police busy.

After Torino's 3-2 win away to Sampdoria Genoa angry rival groups clashed in the street near the stadium. The police panicked and one officer, preparing to fire warning shots in the air, shot a youth in the leg instead.

Pulici (dark shirt, 11) in action for FC Torino against Florence. Picture by Peter Robinson.

# ROMA STOP TORINO RUN

**TORINO HAVE been beaten at last — and ironically their first defeat of the season came away to Roma, where deadly rivals Juventus had crashed only a few weeks before.**

It's difficult to know how to describe the race for the league title this season — as either exciting or boring.

From the point of view of supporters elsewhere, the domination of the Turin giants has now lasted well over two years. But in itself their race is the sharpest for years.

Only for a fortnight in the late autumn was the gap between them as wide as two points and from there they have battled on, swapping the leadership twice more.

Torino took over at No 1 most recently when Juve lost 3-1 to Roma, while Torino were beating Foggia 1-0 to end a run of three successive draws, against Verona, Lazio and Milan.

That Foggia win put Torino one point clear, then their average was cut to goal difference when they were held 1-1 in Genoa before a 57,000 crowd paying a local record of £140,000! Juventus were meanwhile beating Sampdoria 3-0 thanks to two goals from Marco Tardelli.

Torino had a scare when Francesco Graziani was injured and had to come off after an hour against Genoa, but he was fit to play against Sampdoria the next week, and not only that, but he scored a complete hat-trick one with his head, one with his left foot and one with his right, to secure a 3-2 away win.

Those goals ended a blank five weeks for Graziani and brought him level with Genoa's Roberto Pruzzo on 13 as the league's top scorer. But they weren't enough to break the deadlock in the league itself, since another goal from Tardelli and a Roberto Boninsegna penalty brought a 2-0 win over Lazio.

This game, incidentally, saw the debut of a young full back whose fine show emphasised Juve's depth of talent. He is Antonio Cabrini, signed from Atalanta last summer, and already at under-21 level.

The two Turin clubs were level on 27 points, but Torino went one clear by beating Bologna 1-0 with another goal from Graziani. Not that this was a totally happy display. Poor Paolino Pulici was still out of form, and Eraldo Pecci had a quiet time against his old club.

Pecci suffered a broken ankle against Bologna at the start of the season, and the incident clearly hadn't been forgotten by some Torino fans who stoned the coach bringing the Bologna team to the stadium. One even tried to attack Rosario Rampanti — the Bologna player involved — at the end of the game.

But by then Torino were a point clear, Juve having been held 2-2 by Genoa in one of the best games seen in the championship this season. In fact, had it not been for a timely goal from Roberto Bettega, Juve might have been beaten by a goal from a man they transferred last summer, Giuseppe Damiani.

Torino's lead didn't last long.

And ironically it was a former Juventus player, Giuliano Musiello, who sunk them to their first defeat of the season, away to Roma. His goal after 18 minutes was quite enough, and though Roma had defender Domenico Maggiora sent off (and banned for six weeks) for kicking Pulici, Torino couldn't take advantage of being one man up, since the incident occurred three minutes from the end. It was Torino's first league defeat for almost exactly a year.

Juventus held onto an early goal from Bettega to beat Foggia and kept their lead by defeating Catanzaro 2-0 the next week while Torino beat Fiorentina by the same score.

So at the moment it's Juventus, emphasising their fine form by that excellent 3-1 win away to Magdeburg in the UEFA Cup. But it's far from over yet!

# Guessing games. . .

**THE GUESSING games have already begun — by that I mean the annual game to try to forecast which trainer will move where at the season's end.**

**Luis Vinicio, now in the middle of his first season with Lazio, has been linked with Inter, whose Beppe Chiappella would go to Napoli, allowing Bruno Pesaola to go back to Bologna.**

**To aid Nereo Rocco in his massive rebuilding job at Milan, it's suggested the *rossoneri* one of two men sacked in their recent past — Nils Liedholm (now Roma), or Cesare Maldini (with *Serie B* strugglers Ternana).**

**Liedholm's record as a coach is a grey one. He's had no major successes, but then he's not had any failures either. And he's very much on the crest of a wave after Roma's successive victories over Juventus and Torino, who were undefeated until they ventured into the Olympic stadium.**

**His place at Roma might then go to Ilario Castagner, who has done such an effective job with Perugia, holding on quite competently in mid-table. Italo Allodi, former eminence grise at Inter and Juventus and with the Italian 1974 World Cup party, might be tempted to return to club soccer with Roma too, and turn his back on the lucrative and powerful role at the Coverciano technical centre.**

★

**COMPUTER TROUBLE his Genoa — but nobody realised it until too late.**

**The cause of a great deal of bad feeling between the two local teams — Genoa and Sampdoria — was the sudden discovery that there would be a visit from Turin on three successive Sundays.**

**All this was the fault of the computer which worked out the fixtures and came up with this trio: Genoa v Torino; Sampdoria v Torino the next week; and Genoa v Juventus the week after.**

**Torino weren't too pleased, either. Their game with Sampdoria drew an attendance — and receipts — barely half the gate and takings of the previous week!**

★

**ITALIAN soccer is full of strikes and rumours of strikes in midweek — usually all about unpaid bonuses — but it rarely goes further than that.**

**An outstanding exception was in the nine-group fourth division recently, when the players of *all 160 clubs* refused to turn out one weekend.**

**The reason was a long-standing feud between several players and the directors at a club called Scieli. The club presidents all complained to the league and FA, but the disciplinary commission ruling vindicated the players.**

**It was ruled that footballers have the same right to strike as other workers. A nasty blow for Scieli, that, and a handy weapon for the more famous players of *Serie A* in their fight to win some sort of freedom of contract.**

European review . . . European review . . .

# Warm-up win

**PREPARING for the visit to Wales the national team played in France against Division II Berrichonne and won 6-0. Zdenek Nehoda notched a hat trick and Dukla colleague Karel Novak who could come into the side for suspended Anton Ondrus headed one from a corner.**

Dukla goalkeeper Ivo Viktor remains inactive due to his back injury but 23 years old stand-in Jaroslav Netolicka is having some great games in goal and improving all the time to help keep Dukla on top.

Premysl Bicovsky, the international wing half transferred last summer from Teplice to Bohemians cannot get into the side. Neither can former Slovan international striker Jan Svehlik break into Dukla's team. After scoring in the European championship final against West Germany Svehlik is now out of the game.

The Czech representative in the Mitropa Cup this season is Sparta Prague but after beating Vasas Budapest 2-0 at home they crashed 1-2 away to Vojvodina (Yugoslavia) and Fiorentina (0-3).

## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Antonin Panenka is playing as well as ever for Bohemians, scoring a hat trick in his club's 6-3 home win over VSS Kosice who despite having international stars Jaroslav Pollak and Dusan Galis are looking booked for relegation. League leaders Dukla crashed 0-2 away to Slovan Bratislava — only their second away defeat — through two goals from wing half Juraj Novotny, and ex-international.

The best gate of the spring campaign so far was for Slavia's 2-1 home win over Slovan — 22,000 despite the game being shown on TV Slovan players scored all the goals — two own goals for Slavia and Jan Capkovic with a late penalty, but right winger Frantiske Vesely was in super form for Slavia. Five points clear at the break, Dukla have won two and lost two since the restart, but stay top thanks to their 100 per cent home record: played 10, won 10.

# FEW GOALS FOR JENA

## EAST GERMANY

**NEW LEAGUE leaders FC Carl Zeiss Jena are the only club with a 100 per cent success record at home having recorded eight straight wins and scoring 26 goals. But away from home they have found the net only eight times.**

Hat tricks in East Germany have been rare in recent years but Ulrich Netz notched one in the 16th round in the space of just four minutes between the 63rd and 66th minutes of Berliner FC Dynamo's 6-0 home win over Hansa Rostock.

The 'English week' at the re-start of the East German programme, playing on Saturday, Wednesday and Saturday brought leaders FC Carl Zeiss six points. As usual, the biggest mid-week crowd was in Dresden where 33,000 saw the home side beat FC Karl Marx Stadt 3-0, though another 30,000 turned up at Rostock to see Hansa draw 1-1 with champions 1.FC Magdeburg.

Jurgen Pommerenke, 1.FC Magdeburg's international inside forward missed the UEFA Cup games with Juventus through a broken leg and will be out for the rest of the season.

The top league scorer amongst the players still active in the DDR is Eberhard Vogel, left winger of FC Carl Zeiss Jena with 154 goals since 1962. In second place is his club colleague Peter Ducke who scored 150 goals in 342 games but is on the verge of retirement now, while Lokomotive Leipzig's veteran Henning Frenzel could top them all with a total of 146, including two since the winter break.

During the winter break East Germany's Under 21 team visited Vietnam where they played five matches and scored 14 goals to 2. Playing only in Hanoi (two 30,000 crowds) and Haiphong, their most difficult match was against a Vietnamese Army XI in Hanoi whom they just beat 2-1.

## POLAND

# Gmoch's mixed results

**NEW NATIONAL boss Jacek Gmoch took his squad on tour to Greece and Yugoslavia at the end of the winter break with mixed results. 1-0 winners against Panathinaikos through an early goal from Szarmach, they then beat Sarajevo 2-0 but crashed 0-3 against Velez Mostar.**

**In 1977 the national team has twelve full internationals lined up starting with a game against Hungary in Budapest at the end of April, before the key World Cup games against Denmark and Portugal.**

**More than 20,000 paid to see Slask Wroclaw v champions Stal Mielec even though Slask had crashed 0-5 away to Wisla in Krakow in their previous game Slask recovered to win 1-0 with the only goal scored by Zygmunt Garlowski. Although under pressure at the top, the surprise team of the season are leaders LKS Lodz whose only well known player is goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski. Though he is playing brilliantly and has conceded only 12 goals in 17 games he has lost his place in the national team since Gmoch took over.**

**Crack marksmen Lato and Szarmach are averaging only one goal in three games not helped by their reputation which attracts double marking. As a result the leading scorers so far are all unknowns: Zdzislaw Mazur (Zaglebie), Tadeusz Novak (Legia) and Leszek Wolski (Pogon) all on eight goals with new international star Zbigniew Boniek of Widzew Lodz having 7.**

# PIOLA STILL HOLDS RECORD

## ITALY

**THERE WAS plenty of deserved praise for Inter's Giacinto Facchetti and Milan's Gianni Rivera when they overtook the one-club record of 444 appearances set by Juventus schemer-turned-president Giampiero Boniperti.**

**But they've still a long way to go to beat the all-time league appearances record.**

**That was set by Silvio Piola, the upright centre-forward who scored two of the goals which beat Hungary in the 1938 World Cup Final and didn't retire until the end of season 1953-54.**

**Piola totalled 566 games in *Serie A* with four clubs — Pro Vercelli, Lazio, Juventus and Novara. The top 10 players still around is headed by Napoli sweeper Tarcisio Burgnich, with 483.**

**Then we have Rivera 471; Facchetti 445; Ricky Albertosi 437; Giancarlo de Sisti 414; Sandro Mazzola 404; Dino Zoff 375; Roberto Rosato 349; Angelo Domenghini 344; and Pier Luigi Cera 340.**

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# Menotti's job is hardest of all

**THE HOTTEST seat in Argentina is currently occupied by Cesar Luis Menotti, the 37-year-old coach of the Argentine national soccer team and in spite of the country's economic and terrorist problems, President Videla, head of Argentina's military government, does not envy him.**

Menotti is under more pressure than any other coach around the world to build a successful World Cup team because the next finals are going to be held in Argentina and although most Argentine fans are a bit sceptical about the chances, they are not going to be satisfied with anything less than winning the Cup when the time comes. So Menotti is on at least a 10 to one hiding to nothing to become either a national hero or the most abused man in the country in 1978.

Apart from that, Menotti is willingly facing two major problems which his colleagues guiding World Cup contenders in other parts of the world at this moment do not have to put up with — (1) He is trying to impose a style which hardly any of the clubs, from which his players come, use any longer; (2) He has lost key players to foreign clubs before the Argentine FA finally decided last year to ban transfers abroad of players needed for the national squad.

The Argentina national squad during a training session with goalkeeper Gatti in foreground. Menotti said recently Gatti was the only player sure of a first team pla

Menotti wants his team to play the pretty South American style of old — ball control, short passing, emphasis on attack and all — but only three out of 36 clubs in last season's national championship used such a style and this makes it doubly difficult for the players to play as Menotti wants them to in the national team.

If he is successful, everybody will love it, but meanwhile this has brought Menotti into head-on conflict with the coaching methods of Juan Carlos Lorenzo who coached Argentina in the 1962 and 1966 World Cup finals and has just taken Boca Juniors to both the First Division and national titles last season with his ugly, speculating, defence and counter attack, rough and spoiling tactics.

At the end of his successful season, Lorenzo told reporters that if the national team continued with its "touch" soccer it would not be able to beat European teams in the World Cup. To continue with Menotti's plans, he said, would be a waste of time. "During the last 10 years, football has been changed mainly by physical training coaches who have made the game more athletic, faster and harder and these factors dominate in leading teams," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo defended Boca's style by saying that he did not have the players to play any better and pointed out that Menotti did not have the players either for the style he is trying to impose.

This clash of styles which, it is being said, could cost Menotti his job, was the talking point of the close season (in the press and among fans) and it came to a head with the meeting of Boca Juniors and the national team in the final game of the summer tournament at the seaside resort of Mar del Plata (one of the World Cup venues some 400 km from Buenos Aires).

The national team won 1-0, the goal came following a free kick and it was hardly conclusive, but the winners did have many more goal chances and deserved to win. Boca's and Lorenzo's followers had the excuse of course that the club's three internationals, Gatti, Tarantini and Felman, were playing against them.

The exodus of stars meanwhile forced continual team changes last year: Of the squad of 25, for example, which Menotti picked at the beginning of 1976, Alonso (half), backs Trobbiani and Puolino, forwards Hector Scotta, Ortiz and Kempes were sold abroad as well as another key player with World Cup experience, half Brindisi. Some of these mentioned may not have been regular internationals at the time, but that was merely because Menotti was trying out less experienced players.

**Twelve months later the squad of 20 picked for the Mar del Plata tournament showed eight newcomers. But Menotti has often said that he will not ask for players on the books of foreign clubs. Today he is not so sure and says that if things do not improve, he may have to include some.**

It is reported that Kempes (currently Argentina's most capped player) has already received permission from Spanish club Valencia to play for Argentina if it does not harm the club's interests and Menotti, who has said that Kempes is the most difficult player to replace of those who have left, may have to consider the offer. Kempes would join winger Houseman as the only other player with past World Cup experience (1974) in the current squad.

Nevertheless, for the first time Argentina seems to be building a team according to a definite plan, a continual programme of games (which, Menotti insists, is absolutely necessary) and, so far, without the continual changes of coach, players and tactics. If Menotti is given the chance, he should be able to find one team of stars to play his type of soccer now that the exodus of players to foreign clubs is banned.

Since Menotti took over the team for the match against Spain on October 12th, 1974, Argentina has played 21 full internationals and the record is: won 12, drawn 4, lost 5 with 46 goals scored and 21 against. Leading scorer during that time has been Kempes (with nine

**Report b**

goals) which is only one reason why he was badly missed in the last four games.

The record is not bad, but the last match against the Soviet Union in December last year showed up the failings of this team of supposed stars who failed to play together — and it is always the last performance that sticks in the memory.

How safe is Menotti's position? The question has continuously been asked, also by foreigners who are used to Argentina's continual changes.

Menotti has had his rifts with the Argentine FA, mainly with the present officials last year after the Argentine junior team's participation in an international tournament in France was cancelled at the last moment when the players asked for more money and he was accused of taking the players' side.

And again when the FA at first refused to allow him to go to Europe to watch the final stages of the European Nations Cup in Yugoslavia. But since then FA president Alfredo Cantilo has insisted several times that Menotti is the best man for the job and that he has the full backing of the FA.

**ERIC WEIL**

And what does Menotti think?

"I am convinced that we can win by playing good football, but the players make 95% of the team. Any coach who thinks differently is a liar or tries to deceive himself. The coach can choose, advise, plan, but as all sorts of unforeseen things suddenly happen during a game, the capacity for creation, ability and intelligence of the player, who has to overcome the problem on the field, counts most. I've never seen a coach win a match or score a goal, although sometimes they want to appear as the leading stars."

That defines Argentina's national coach who also assured me that he was satisfied with his first two years in charge of the squad, also because he has never had any trouble in maintaining discipline and obedience while he found the players responsible, dedicated, confident and humble — and there aren't many coaches in Argentina who can truthfully say that of their team.

The style Menotti wants to impose is the same with which he won the First Division title as coach with Huracan in 1973 — defending zones and with four men at the back trying to leave the opposition without any room; three halves with good ball play and attacking capacity and one of the three (Gallego in the present lineup) hanging back to help the defence; attack nearly always with three men who continually rotate — Houseman on the left and right, Luque coming up from the centre to either side and Kempes (before he left) as a left winger with freedom to attack diagonally. And they all play a short passing game, trying to hold on to the ball.

The result usually is a slow game, the short passing is overdone and the players get too close to each other. They frequently end up by getting mixed up themselves before mixing up the opposition.

Apart from the fact that Menotti hasn't got the players for this type of game, it lacks surprise for the opposition and Argentina lacks an on-field marshal such as Brindisi or Babington (both 1974 World Cup internationals) might have been if they had not gone to play abroad.

**What the Argentine squad could do with are some faster players to mix in a bit of long passing and vary the game more. It could still play the South American style adapted more to modern tactics to break down today's defences. It would also be easier for the players available.**

● *Continued on page 23*

# "Tampa ...and ther

## From PAUL GARDNER in New York

**YOU MIGHT wonder what dinner napkins, toddler bibs, pyjamas, wrist-watches, flat-top hats, lamps, wastepaper baskets and ashtrays have to do with soccer. If you do wonder, then I'm afraid you are showing a deplorable ignorance of the commercial potential of soccer.**

After all, when you come to think about it, would you not want your kids to go to bed clad in pyjamas that say "Tampa Bay Rowdies" all over them? Would you not delight in wiping your mouth on a napkin embroidered "Chicago Sting"? Would you not be excited by the idea of reading by the light of a lamp shaped like a soccer ball?

Well, of course, of course you would. That's more like it. Now you are acting like a proper consumer. You are taking your place among the millions that the North American Soccer League hopes to seduce with such products in the next few years.

Though it is not strictly the NASL, There is another entity called NASL Marketing Inc. Its president is Steve Caspers, a marketing man with impeccable marketing credentials from advertising agencies and television. A marketing man whose conversation bristles with marketing jargon, input, co-lateral support, demographics, pay-out, socio-economic indicators. He occupies a light and airy corner office with one of those spectacular Manhattan views, an office that has a heap of soccer balls on one windowsill, a mound of T-shirts on a side-table, some mysterious-looking designs lying on the floor, the only flat surface that seems to be available for them.

Caspers is in his shirt sleeves, in constant motion around the office, restless because he has given up smoking. Between journeys from one side of the office to the other, from the window to the door and back, he defines the function of NASL Marketing: "To create universal awareness of the sport of soccer, with particular emphasis on the teams in our league."

NASL-M was set up by the clubs in the league, each of which contributed about $2000 to the original capitalisation. Since then its losses have been born by the clubs, bringing their total contribution so far to around $9,000 each club. But Caspers believes the days of the clubs' paying in are over. They will now start receiving money instead; any profits that NASL-M makes will be split equally among the clubs.

**"We're intended to be a profit-making body" says Caspers, "We're separate from the league which, of course, is non-profit. We started in July 1974, I joined in December 1975 . . . and you know what my biggest asset in this job was? Simply that I'd never seen a soccer game, I knew nothing about the sport. So I had no fixed ideas, I wasn't weeded by tradition to certain positions. Anyway, NASL-M lost money for the first two years, but this year I think we'll make a profit. That's normal for launching a new product If you put a new toothpaste on the market, you would expect a three-year period before you start to look for pay-out."**

A spluttered protest from the traditionalist — "But, really, you are surely not saying that soccer can be treated in the same way as toothpaste . . .?

It is brushed aside — "Yes, it's no different. You go out and market it, get it off the shelves. Our product is soccer, it's an entertainment product that we're selling to the consuming public. We are competing for the entertainment dollar with the other sports."

NASL-M has three main ways of helping to get soccer off the shelves, which is to say it has three ways of bringing in money: Selling advertising in the NASL's game program *Kick*; promotions; and licensing.

**Advertising:** this is bringing in most money at the moment. *Kick Magazine* is a 16 to 32 page booklet that is produced and published by NASL-M and is distributed to all 18 league clubs for stitching into their own game programs. It is changed every other week; about half of its content is editorial, half advertisements from firms such as Toyota, Chevrolet and Dodge cars, Dr Pepper and Coca-Cola soft drinks, Voit and Pony sports equipment, Eastern Airlines — big firms, interested in the national market.

**Promotions:** The NASL has a number of annual awards, such as the league's most valuable player (MVP), the best American player the rookie of the year, etc. What NASL-M does is to find sponsors for these awards who pay a fee of, say, $25,000. In return, all publicity concerning the awards will feature, exclusively, the sponsor's name and product. The American player award, for instance, is known, rather cumbrously, as the Pepsi-Cola Award in Honor of Pelé. The MVP award is sponsored by Toyota who give one of their cars to the winner (a fine arrangement somewhat marred last season when the award was won by Pelé, who has a personal contract with Honda.)

**Licensing:** The really big money is expected, ultimately, to come from licensing. In its simplest form, it works like this: a manufacturer of T-shirts believes he can make money selling shirts with the NASL team logos printed on them. NASL-M, satisfied that he can produce a quality product and will do a good marketing job, grants him the exclusive right to produce such T-shirts. In return, NASL-M will receive a percentage (probably between five and 10 per cent) of his profits on this item. NASL-M now has 20 different manufacturers licensed to manufacture some 50 products, which is where all those napkins, toddler bibs, lamps and ashtrays come in.

Each club has its own logo, but the rights to use them in merchandising have been assigned to NASL-M. The advantages are apparent. Caspers: "No T-shirt manufacturer wants to deal with 18 different clubs. He comes to us and negotiates one deal for all 18 T-shirts." The centralisation of the operation also gives the NASL some control over the quality of the products. In fact, all the designs have to be approved by the league, which means thay must have Commissioner Phil Woosnam's personal OK.

If there is a star attraction in the NASL-M licensing field, it is the NASL ball — the white ball with the blue panels and the red stars. The design is, of course, trade-marked, and until recently was produced exclusively by Adidas. But Adidas was selling only to exclusive soccer stores, and NASL-M wanted sales in large department stores, more exposure. The result was the licensing of another manufacturer to make cheaper leather and rubber balls for mass distribution.

**The design of the ball is attractive and successful. Imitation has started. Steve Caspers has a manufacturer's catalogue that illustrates a soccer ball almost identical to the NASL design. The "cosmetics" (another marketing term) are marginally different.**

# Bay pyjamas' 're is more to come

**Where the NASL red stars have five points, the imitation has four points. A piece of plagiarism that calls up another of NASL-M's functions: "That's a knock-off of our ball," says Caspers "We're going after those guys, we'll take them to court. We'll be litigating for all of our clubs."**

It is no secret that NASL-M's dreams of success are based heavily on what the National (Grid) Football League (NFL) has achieved. NFL Properties Inc makes a profit of between $6 and $7 million a year, about $4 million of which comes from the licensing of the products listed and illustrated in full colour in their slick 100-page Merchandise Catalogue. Will NASL Marketing ever be able to make that sort of money? Caspers is non-committal, but promises: "We will reach the $1 million mark in 1978."

The growing love affair between advertisers and sponsors on one hand and soccer on the other is worth a little study. It revolves around another of those marketing words demographics. Population studies, if you like, lists and tables that tell you who lives where, how old they are, how educated, how rich, what they buy.

The car makers and the soft drink manufacturers and so on have their own ideal demographics, portraying the sort of people they want to reach with their advertising. Would it not be nice for soccer if the NASL's demographics of their fans turned out to coincide with those of the car and soft drink people? The NASL's figures, based on a survey that was conducted during last season's games, paints a highly optimistic picture of the fan-as-consumer:

65% have had at least one year of college education
47% have white-collar jobs
66% come from families earning over $15,000 a year
47% are females
80% are below the age of 49
47% are current or former players of the sport
85% bought sports equipment in the past year
66% bought women's perfume
33% bought a car
88% bought soft drinks 10 times a month

These are impressive figures, I am told, the sort of figures that excite advertisers and sponsors. Particularly that "47% females" total. "No other sport has anything like that" says Steve Caspers "Grid football and hockey are 80% to 90% male. But women are very important in the *decision* to purchase. We can reach them. Look — in *Kick Magazine* we now have ads for Clairol."

There is, nonetheless, one disturbing aspect to this business of demographics. There must be a temptation for the league to supply advertisers and sponsors with figures that approximate to what they want to hear. I am looking at that "47% female" figure again, a figure that the NASL got from last year's survey. I have studied the survey form that was used — it seems almost designed to give ambiguous answers. Read it whichever way I like, I cannot see anywhere on it where the compiler is required to identify his or her sex.

This 47% figure looks like a case of doctoring the books. My own observation, based on nothing more scientific than what I have seen at games, would put the figure at around 33%.

Steve Caspers admits that the survey "was not the most sophisticated piece of research" ever done, but accepts its figures. Actually, even if the figure were 33%, that would still put soccer ahead of the other sports in the fight for the female fan. And it would do nothing to dim Caspers' very evident enthusiasm for his task of getting soccer off the shelves and bringing in that first $1 million.

## Herrera goes back to work. . .

**HELENIO HERRERA is going back into action with Rimini after his suspension for breaking another suspension was reduced!**

**To start at the beginning: Herrera was banned from coaching until the end of last year because of uncomplimentary remarks made about his colleagues in the coaching association.**

**HH then took the risk in the autumn of joining Rimini as team *adviser*, but took over the team after the coach walked out in protest. That led to Herrera being banned until the end of March, so he had to sever all connection with the bottom of the table second division side.**

### Bottom

**Now that HH's ban has been commuted on appeal, finishing at the end of February he's free to return to work. He'll go back to a more successful team. In his absence Rimini moved off the bottom and up to 16th place in the 20-team division!**

**It was a controversial progress. After they stole a point with a 0-0 draw at Ascoli, the home team were so upset that they sacked their own coach, Giovanni Mialich.**

**Milich, who is 43, was once a Torino team-mate of national team coach Enzo Bearzot. What a contrast now.**

# OF MANAG
# AND DIREC

**by Brian Glanville**

Brian Clough — who turned down the chance of returning to Derby County.

**I WONDER how many people shared my revulsion over February's Derby County Affair. Never, in a nutshell, has the whole managerial/directorial crisis of our ailing football been so graphically and brutally demonstrated. Colin Murphy, Derby's young manager, was humiliated. Brian Clough was frustrated. Derby County's Board was held up to ridicule.**

Within mere weeks of appointing the obscure, 33-year-old Murphy as their manager, Derby's directors were implicitly admitting they had made a mistake. They then proceeded to approach a manager, albeit their own, old one, who was still under contract to his club, Nottingham Forest, even if Forest gave them leave to do so. They announced that he would be returning to them, were left, in show business parlance, with egg on their faces, and ultimately found themselves back where they started; with Murphy in somewhat tottering command.

Or rather, in a command more tottering than it was before, given that the Derby directors had made it perfectly clear they had no confidence in him and wanted to replace him. In which case one felt it legitimate to ask, why ever did they appoint him in the first place? The mere fact that they approached Clough at all implied an admission that they had been wrong to appoint Murphy, though having appointed him, it seemed shocking that they would not give him at least till the end of the season to prove himself.

My own feeling is that the appointment of Murphy was a mistaken one, unfair alike to club and player but in saying this, I mean no disrespect at all to young Murphy himself; I am merely stigmatising our fatuous, empirical, insanely hand to mouth system. Having sacked Dave Mackay, whose skill in the transfer market — which he rated so highly in a manager — was alas un-matched by skill in strategy, Derby had an urgent problem. Des Anderson, the assistant manager, went with Mackay.

Who could take over? Murphy, a qualified FA coach with something of a penchant for coaching jargon, happened, like Everest, to be THERE; in charge of the reserves. He was, understandably enough, pushed into the imminent, deadly breach as manager; an appointment which, in justice to everybody, should have been a temporary one. Had Murphy, despite all the strikes against him, come triumphantly through, he could have been confirmed at the end of the season.

As it was, he at once made the sensible move, I understand, of inviting the highly successful English coach of Malmo, in Sweden,

# ERS TORS

Houghton, to come as his assistant. Houghton said no. It could have been an interesting partnership; though Houghton's track record of sustained success in the Swedish League made him a rather more obvious manager than Murphy.

How poor Murphy was expected to take the giant stride over the chasm between running a reserve team and running the First Division side of one of our most famous and prominent clubs is beyond me; though I am still nauseated by the way he was treated during the frenzied attempt to get Clough.

Clough stayed; though even the Queen's Counsel who now occupies the chairman's seat, or its equivalent, at Nottingham Forest was surprisingly heard to say that in his view there was nothing, including the four year contract, to prevent Clough departing for Derby if he wanted to.

## Emphatically

Surely the players, looking at that sorry, sombre case and the Gordon Lee affair a little earlier, have every right in the world to say that what is sauce for the goose should emphatically be sauce for the gander. How dare the League clubs and their asinine, know-nothing directors — that's to say — attack freedom of contract when they and their managers treat contracts rather as Hitler treated . . . treaties. Mere scraps of paper, in a word.

The Lee Affair was little more endearing than the Affair Murphy, though I suppose you could say that Newcastle United were being hoist with their own petard; having hauled Lee away from Blackburn Rovers when he was under contract there. They were obliged to pay compensation as, I believe, Everton will be, but leaving aside the profound mystery — to me at least — of why anybody wants Lee so badly (he may BECOME the finest manager we have ever known, but there's no sign of it in his record with Newcastle, Blackburn or Port Vale) are we to assume that contracts are now worthless, in so far as they regard managers?

It seems, on the face of these two sorry cases, that neither clubs nor managers are protected by them, and if anybody is Bringing Football into Disrepute — to use that pompous phrase — it is much less the players who flap their hands provocatively at our largely inept referees but those clubs and managers who display such a total disregard for legal agreements.

At the root of the trouble, I believe, is our old friend, the Law of Supply and Demand, and at the root of that is our stupid system; or the lack of it. In West Germany, Spain and Italy (even though their Centro Tecnico at Coverciano is now run by Dezso Soltios defender, the ineffable Italo Allodi) there is no way you can become the manager of a First Division club unless you have the requisite diploma.

Gordon Lee — the new manager of Everton.

The West Germans make a splendidly thorough job of it. You may not manage a First Division club till you have taken your Football Teacher's certificate, following and passing a six months course at the Sports High School of Cologne. For this you must pay 1000 marks, and study football coaching and methods, pedagogy (there's no point, as a German official remarked to me, taking a man on the course if he clearly cannot teach), anatomy, sports law, administration, psychology.

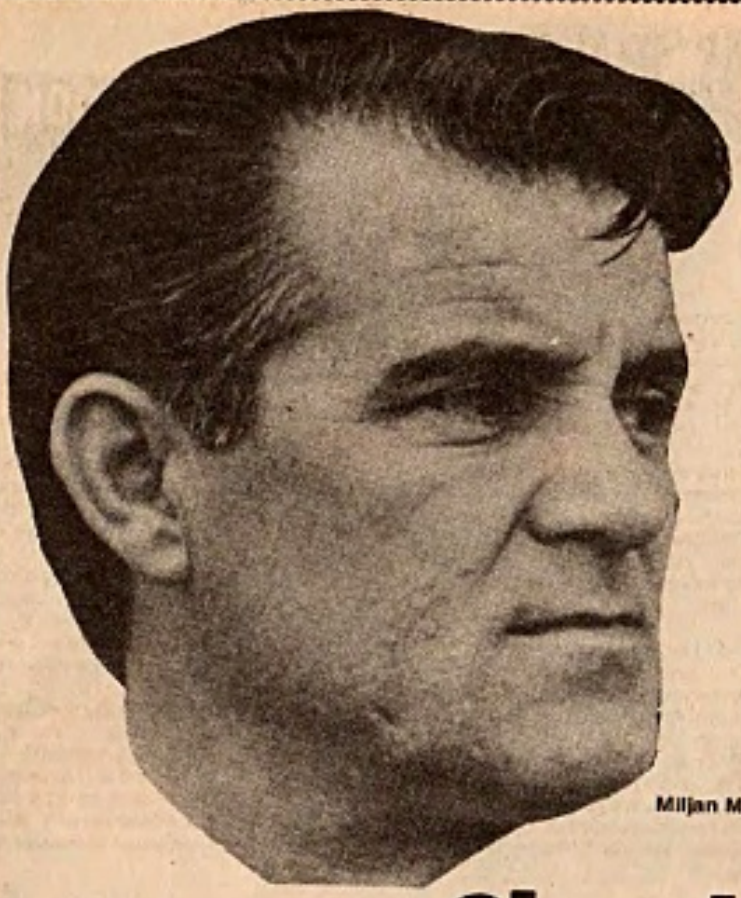
Since the West Germans want to keep the quality high, they admit only 30 or so applicants a year, and these lucky few must pay their own board and lodging during their six months in Cologne as well as the fee. At week-ends they may go back to coach their respective clubs.

They cannot take the course at all until they have acquired certificates at B then A level, which in turn must be interspersed with practical managerial experience. This would protect young coaches like Murphy and Newcastle's Richard Dinnis from being thrust prematurely into management.

One can sympathise with the Newcastle players' impatience with their ham fisted board — but when has the Newcastle United board, even in their 1950 days of glory, been an exemplary body? — but Player Power is a dangerous thing. The chief argument against it is identical with that against thrusting ex-footballers too quickly into management; their very upbringing and conditioning, from the age of 15 or 16, is one exquisitely calculated to rob them of responsibility, rather than breeding initiative.

Directors, however, are not wholly to be blamed. Directors are directors the world over. They do the kind of things that, Lord and Bob Lord help us, Burnley have done; get rid of an excellent manager in Jimmy Adamson (who has fought the good fight so bravely at Sunderland) to appoint his quiet, retiring, predictably unsuccessful coach, Joe Brown — who deserved to be left in peace — replacing him, in turn with . . . Harry Potts, sacked all those years ago to make room for Adamson. Hallelujah.

Still and all, if directors are dumb, at least they can be helped by restricting their choice, as in West Germany, to well trained men. That doesn't happen here.



Miljan Miljanic

# Shock for Real

MILJAN MILJANIC will see his contract through, "even if it kills him" — that was the comment from Real Madrid president Santiago Bernebeu after two defeats in four days seemed to put the skids under the Yugoslav.

The first defeat had elements of black comedy in it, for the player who sunk Madrid — now ninth in the league — was none other than Juanito, whom they have already agreed to buy at the end of the season from Burgos.

Burgos, promoted last season and struggling to avoid a hasty return to the lower reaches, beat Madrid 3-2 with Juanito scoring twice and making the other — though he had some inadvertent help from goalkeeper Miguel Angel, who has been in erratic form.

Madrid had an impressive team on paper, with Pirri, Paul Breitner and Manolo Velazquez the midfield trio, but whether it was the cloying mud, they couldn't put their game together and strikers Carlos Santillana and Henning Jensen received poor service.

Juanito, afterwards, didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"I'm sorry I turned it on like that today, when I've gone so many weeks without scoring," he said candidly. "I'd have paid a great deal to have played badly today — just as long as Burgos won."

That was Sunday. The following Wednesday Madrid crashed 3-0 to Hercules at Alicante in the first leg of an early round of the Cup. It might have been different if Madrid had been awarded the penalty they deserved when Pirri was tripped on the half-hour by Quique.

But the defence just wasn't good enough to cope. Just before half-time a ragged offside trap failed, in the 70th minute Miguel Angel left a fatal gap on his near post, and seven minutes later Paco Uria carelessly gave the ball away on the edge of the box.

Each time Hercules made Madrid pay the maximum penalty — with one goal for Baena and two for Charles.

Next season could be the first in which Real Madrid have been missing from European competition.

**QUOTE of the season, from Hercules coach Arsenio. He had been asked whether it upset him when the club couldn't obtain the new players he wanted.**

**His reply: "I can't get angry because the board don't sign players who are not available. But what does get on my nerves is when they sign players I *haven't* asked for."**

# VALE HERR

VALENCIA'S DECISION to sack Heriberto Herrera as coach after just seven months and while they were third in the league shocked the fans.

But the storm had been brewing for some time — ever since that 6-1 defeat by Barcelona which led to the first serious disagreements between Herrera and his players.

For that match the Paraguayan left out Johnny Rep to try to contain the Barcelona forwards and the Dutch star was highly annoyed. Later, in the manner of Johan Cruyff's clash with Hennes Weisweiler, Rep let it slip that if HH2 stayed after this season, then he wouldn't.

Not that Rep appeared certain to be retained anyway. He's not been exactly a smash hit and last season was most unsettled, both on the field and off it.

So what else went wrong? After all, at the start of the season it seemed Valencia had all the ingredients for a marvellous recovery from the squabbles of the previous 18 months.

They had signed a string of top-class newcomers, including above all 'Lobo' Diarte and Mario Kempes. Then there were defenders Carrete, Castellanos and Botubot, as well as midfielder Adorno. If captain Jose Balaguer was hardly the best goalkeeper in the league, there seemed ample cover. Sweeper Jesus Martinez has always been one of the most consistent players around, and if there were injury problems for Pepe Claramunt, the attack looked strong enough to get on with the job without him.

JOSE MARIA Maguregui was known throughout the fifties as one of the best of Spanish wing-halves.

He played eight times for Spain after establishing himself at Bilbao, but hasn't had the same sort of acclaim as a coach. In fact Santander, where he is now, have the worst defensive record in the top division.

As I write they have conceded 41 goals in 23 games and are just outside the bottom three following a defeat at Zaragoza. That was a bad match for Santander to lose, since Zaragoza, struggling all season, are at last showing signs of clawing their way to safety — and that could be at the expense of Santander!

Jordao and Nino Arrua scored the goals in the 2-0 defeat which was just too much for Maguregui.

After the match he let himself get too carried away — criticising four of his players — Diaz, Portu, Barredo and Lolo — for not trying, and also the board for not providing the reinforcements he wanted.

The board's reaction was swift. Maguregui has been fined two weeks' wages (about £1,000). He did accept the sanction graciously however — with apologies all round.

# ENCIA FIRE ERA

## SPANISH NOTEBOOK by Keir Radnedge

Valencia started well and led the league briefly. Then their form in away matches began to drop off. Herrera, who wanted to attack home and away, changed his mind and adopted two philosophies — attack at home, play for a point away.

Above all, the man they call the Iron Sergeant had disciplinary problems. He had always been a stickler for tight rules, but it's no secret now that some of the big names found his attitude too rigid. Their grievances became known to the directors and since the new year Herrera had been fighting a losing battle.

The final straw — or the final excuse — was the 2-1 home defeat by Las Palmas, whom Herrera coached last season.

It was Valencia's poorest home display of the season, and the fans were shouting for Herrera's head, particularly after Rep had what would have been a late equaliser disallowed for offside.

Las Palmas manager Roque Olsen couldn't believe his luck. Diarte, the controversial Paraguayan who cost a record £400,000 from Zaragoza, was the only Valencia player to hit anything like form. In fact, his goal kept him equal at the top of the scoring list on 15, along with Barcelona's Manuel Clares and Espanol's Rafael Maranon.

Two days later, Valencia's president Jose Ramos Costa summoned a special board meeting. A short statement afterwards announced the dismissal of Herrera and the appointment as caretaker of general manager Bernardino Perez Elizaran, an old Valencia favourite better known as Pasieguito.

"We feel we must show ourselves responsible to the general public feeling," said Costa. "Herrera's inability to get along with the players had become too much. But, nevertheless, we are third in the league so he can walk out of the front door, knowing he did good work for which we are grateful.

"I don't remember whose idea it was that he should have a two-year contract. But I'm sure we'll be able to sort the financial side out easily enough."

What did Herrera think of it all?

Besides admitting the obvious, that Valencia were like two different teams home and away, he added: "There were a number of players who wouldn't pull their weight for me. And I've never had such problems with maintaining discipline."

But problem No. 1, said Herrera, was the failure to sign Rainer Bonhof, though Valencia do have an agreement with Borussia to take effect after next year's World Cup.

You can take Herrera's reasoning two ways. First, that he meant Valencia badly needed a combative midfield dynamo. Or, that if Bonhof had arrived Rep would have had to move on under the two-foreigners rule. . . .

So far there are few names suggested for a long-term successor. Miguel Munoz, formerly of Real Madrid then Granada, is favourite — and he's admitted that he needs a new job because inflation is eroding his earnings from the great days at Madrid. But no decision is expected this side of the end of the season.

# Neeskens' own goal

AN OWN goal by Johan Neeskens, six minutes from time in the top-of-the-table battle between Atletico Madrid and Barcelona, could have a vital bearing on the title race in Spain.

Barcelona were 1-0 up, thanks to a 77th-minute goal from Manuel Clares, when Ruben Ayala, in a breakaway, hit a weak shot which the unfortunate Dutchman diverted past his own goalkeeper, Pedro Mora.

It was Barcelona's third game without suspended Johan Cruyff, and the third game too they had failed to win. One point was enough to keep Atletico two points clear at the top of the table with 10 games to play.

Cruyff was suspended for three games after being sent off in the 2-1 home win against Malaga, and without him the next Sunday CFB went down 2-0 to Salamanca after top scorer Clares (16 goals) missed a penalty.

The same day Atletico were winning controversially at Bilbao by 1-0 to creep one point ahead, a lead they increased the following Sunday even though they were held 1-1 at home by Espanol Barcelona.

Bilbao, meanwhile, did Atletico an almighty favour by beating Barcelona in front of 90,000 of their own fans. The score was 2-0 and both goals came from Javier Irureta, the Bilbao midfield general who joined them 18 months ago from . . . Atletico Madrid.!

To be fair, however, Bilbao's real hero was Jose Iribar, who made some marvellous saves to earn both points. Iribar might not agree. His comment a few days later was: "Just because Cruyff wasn't there everyone is playing down our performance."

But Cruyff has been in such outstanding form this season, that his absence, and the furore that aroused, must have had an effect on his team-mates.

One of the outcomes of the affair has been an FEF order that all clubs submit plans for putting up fences or digging moats to keep fans off the pitch. That decision has been a long time coming, and there are still opponents, such as Elche. But for some time it has been clear there is no alternative.

Barcelona meanwhile have sorted out the future of Hugo Sotil. The Peruvian has been sold back to Alianza of Lima for £60,000 and will strengthen the Peruvian World Cup qualifying campaign. A disappointing end to a career in Europe of a player who, just three years ago, was almost as popular in Catalonia as Cruyff himself.

Sotil failed to re-establish himself this season, despite the encouragement of Rinus Michels, who has also been having problems with Carlos Rexach. The powerful left-winger has spent a lot of time on the reserves' bench this season and perhaps that frustration was partly responsible for a night club incident in which he was involved with a photographer.

BETIS, slipping down the league since Rafael Iriondo took over from Ferenc Szusza in late autumn, hit another snag when Paraguayan forward Celso Mendieta walked out.

Mendieta joined Betis in 1974 and took up Spanish citizenship last summer to accommodate the signing of former Ajax midfielder, Gerrie Muhren.

Recently he asked the club for permission to return briefly to Paraguay, a plea which was turned down because Mendieta, troubled lately by injury, was undergoing a set course of treatment in Seville.

The following Monday he failed to turn up for his spell on the treatment table. The club doctor went round to his home and found only Mendieta's wife. He had already flown home, she was staying on just to sell his car!

NASTY shock for Mallorca, third in the third division group three, with a recent court decision over a claim by their old Portuguese forward, Jorge Mendoza.

The man who starred at Atletico Madrid and Barcelona in the early sixties was asking for an order forcing Mallorca to pay £6,000 they owed him.

Mallorca didn't take it very seriously. They were unrepresented in court it seems . . . until, that is, the court announced its decision: Mallorca should auction off their 11 first-teamers at £500 each!

I'm told an out-of-court settlement is now likely!

# Eintracht Brunswig –satisfactory season

## Club Focus by Jack Rollin

**THOUGH the failure of the top teams in the Bundesliga has led to the championship race being thrown wide open, unfancied Eintracht Brunswick who had been one of the most consistent sides all season have also faltered at a vital stage.**

Even so they have had what must be considered by their own standards a satisfactory season and even if they succeed in finishing third will have had their best campaign since winning the Bundesliga in 1967.

Relegated in 1973 they spent only one season out of the top echelon and have shown steady improvement during the last couple of seasons. In 1974-75 they were ninth and then they climbed up to fifth last term.

They have been called the team without stars chiefly because they have not contributed to the recent international sides fielded by West Germany, but certainly they have not lacked good class players.

After lying comfortably in the second place after the winter-pause, Brunswick had two matches postponed but finally returned to activity with a 1-0 win over Bayern Munich which kept them five points behind leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach, but with these outstanding games in hand.

Since then, however, Brunswick have frittered away their advantages and lost a fine chance of going ahead in the Bundesliga when they lost 3-0 at Frankfurt and then 1-0 at home to Hamburg.

Leading scorer this season has been Wolfgang Frank the centre-forward who had been showing improved form at least in the first half of the season. Signed in 1974 he is a former West Germany 'B' international aged 26 and who has played for AZ 67 Alkmaar in Holland as well as VfB Stuttgart and two smaller German clubs.

His support up front comes from Danilo Popivoda, the Yugoslav international signed by the club in 1975 from Olimpija Ljubljana by coach Branko Zebec one of his countrymen. A former World Cup player Popivoda was capped at Under-23, 'B' and full level for his country. He is 28.

On the left in attack is Frank Holzer a newcomer this season from 1FC Saarbrucken and a former youth international starlet. Holzer is 24. Two other strikers with the club are Norbert Stolzenburg and Matthias Bruns.

**Stolzenburg was another close-season signing, having been recruited from Tennis Borussia Berlin. He was previously with another local Berlin club and is 24. Bruns, only 19, is a recruit from Brunswick's own amateur ranks.**

Most experienced player in the team is right-back Wolfgang Grzyb, a 36-year-old defender who has been with the club for 13 years now and is a former amateur international. He should complete 300 Bundesliga matches later this season.

With over 250 Bundesliga games behind him is midfield player Karlheinz Handschuh, a 29-year-old former Under-23, 'B' and youth international who first joined up with Brunswick in 1974 after playing for VfB Stuttgart.

Another experienced midfield player is Yugoslavian-born Aleksandar Ristic, a 32-year-old who also arrived in 1974 after playing for Sarajevo Hajduk Split and Velez Mostar in his native country.

However, during the midwinter pause and period for transfers, Brunswick lost their captain Bernd Gersdorff who moved to Hertha Berlin. The captaincy has gone now to Friedhelm Haebermann, a centre-back aged 30 who first came to the club in 1969 and looks back on a distinguished amateur career previously which won him 37 caps at this level.

Left-back Franz Merkhoffer has completed more than 200 Bundesliga appearances himself and at 30, too, is coming up for his tenth year with the club and has one Under-23 cap to his name.

Centre-back Reiner Hollmann was in the West German 'B' team which lost to France recently and he also has Under-23 and amateur honours in his career having joined Brunswick in 1973 when he was 25.

The following day after that 'B' international, the full West German side met the French seniors and the reserve goalkeeper for the Germans was Bernd Franke, now aged 29, and an Eintracht player since 1971 when he arrived after spells with Fortuna Dusseldorf and Saarbrucken. Franke has a couple of full caps, incidentally, and others at 'B' level.

Another senior international with them is midfield player Dieter Zembski, aged 30, who arrived in 1975 from Werder Bremen and has one full cap for his country.

### Second choice

**Two other midfield players are Wolfgang Dremmler, a 22-year-old who has been with the club for nearly four years and is a 'B' cap plus Dietmar Erler, now 29 and signed in 1970 after spells with Borussia Dortmund and Arminia Bielefeld. Erler is a former Under-23 international himself.**

Completing the staff are second choice goalkeeper Uwe Hain and defender Wolfgang Grobe. Hain is 21 and has been with the club since 1972 after winning youth international recognition. Grobe is a 20-year-old in his first season having come up from the club's amateur ranks.

The club has been in existence for over 80 years and their ground can hold 35,000. After winning their first and only major title so far in 1967, Eintracht Brunswick had an easy enough passage in the first round of the European Cup.

Their opponents, Dynamo Tirana, Albania, withdrew and Brunswick received a bye into the next round which they succeeded in getting through after beating Rapid Vienna. In the quarter-finals, however, though taking Juventus to a play-off, they had to settle for defeat against the Italians by the only goal in Berne.

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# 1976 Player awards

Jurgen Kroy

European Footballer of the Year Franz Beckenbauer (Bayern Munchen) 31 years, 103 caps.

AUSTRIA: Hans Krankl (SC Rapid) 23 years, 21 caps.

BELGIUM: Rob Rensenbrink (RSC Anderlecht) 29 years, 31 caps for Holland.

BULGARIA: Bozidar Grigorov (Slavia, Sofia) 31 years, 6 caps.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Ivo Viktor (Dukla, Praha) 34 years, 65 caps.

DENMARK: Flemming Ahlberg (Frem, Copenhagen) 30 years, 26 caps.

ENGLAND: Kevin Keegan (Liverpool) 26 years, 25 caps.

FINLAND: Aki Heiskanen (Kupio Palloseura) 25 years, 20 caps.

FRANCE: Dominique Rocheteua (St. Etienne) 22 years, 5 caps.

GERMANY, EAST: Jurgen Kroy (Sachsenring Zwickau) 30 years, 75 caps.

GERMANY, WEST: Franz Beckenbauer (Bayern Munchen) 31 years, 103 caps.

HOLLAND: Ruud Geels (Ajax) 28 years, 10 caps.

HUNGARY: Zoltan Kereki (Haladas Szombathely) 24 years, 7 caps.

ITALY: Francesco Graziani (AC Torino) 24 years, 15 caps.

LUXEMBOURG: Nico Braun (FC Metz, France) 27 years, 32 caps.

MALTA: John Holland (Floriana FC) 23 years, 12 caps.

NORWAY: Helge Karlsen (Brann Bergan) 28 years, 22 caps.

POLAND: Henryk Kasperczak (Stal Mielec) 30 years, 44 caps.

RUMANIA: Dudu Georgescu (Dynamo Bucharest) 26 years, 22 caps.

SCOTLAND: John Greig (Glasgow Rangers) 35 years, 44 caps.

SWEDEN: Anders Linderoth (Oster IFK, Vaxjo) 26 years, 20 caps.

SWITZERLAND: Umberto Barberis (Servette, Geneva) 24 years, 2 caps.

U.S.S.R.: Vladimir Astapovski (ZDSA Moscow) 30 years, 9 caps.

YUGOSLAVIA: Dzemal Hadziabdic (Velez Mostar) 23 years, 17 caps.

# ALLISON CRISIS by HASAN CEMALI

HASAN CEMALI REPORTING FROM INSTANBAL

**After the Turgan Ece—Malcolm Allison affair another crisis in the managerial staff of Galatasaray hit the headlines of the sports pages here in Turkey.**

At home Galatasaray lost two valuable points to Boluspor (2-1). So Malcolm Allison found himself again in an awkward situation. Big Mal fell ill with a lung infection just a day before his team's visit to the Black Sea for two major away games — in those two matches Galatasaray drew with Orduspor (0-0) and lost to Trabzonspor (1-0) gaining only a point in two games. As Allison was ill with a high temperature, ex-national coach member of Galatasaray Dogan Kologlu was appointed as Technical Adviser next to Allison.

Dogan Kologlu in a press conference recently stated: "Mr. Allison's illness caused chaos in the technical affairs of football of our club. Due to this inconvenient situation the club committed me as technical adviser I will take charge of the team until Allison recovers from his illness. Galatasaray loses valuable points because players don't act like professionals. Despite of all this Big Mal is indifferent to the matter. To start with he is too soft. I admit that he is a great tactician. But that's not enough for the progress of Galatasaray or Turkish football. Even until now he hasn't established team discipline. I am here to straighten things up. If necessary I will take severe measures against players who break the club's rules."

At the moment it is difficult to say whether Allison will be sacked or not. When Allison recovers will Dogan Kologlu stay in the club as a technical adviser? But, time will show. The fact is that Allison is on good terms with the multi-millionaire president of Galatasaray, Selahattin Beyazit. But as things go very wrong for him will he find anyone to support him except the dear president. Mr. Allison treats Galatasaray as he would English professionals. Strict measures are a must in Turkey to attain success, especially in sports.

Recently a typical incident occurred in a Galatasaray camp. A player who asked for a day's leave for personal reasons from Malcolm Allison was later seen in a night club. Similar incidents have occurred. Without the knowledge of Allison, players often broke the rules of the club, taking advantage of his goodwill.

He was seriously sick for 10 days. The doctors advised him to stay in bed for another week.

His latest statement is: "I am still the Patron of the team. Dogan Kologlu can only take advice from me. We can work together on my basis only. I still insist that his existence in the club should not change anything. I have demanded training facilities as they are very inefficient. You force players to act and behave like professionals. But, nothing is professional in the club. What can I do? Shall I go and play for them? You advise me."

# Viktor—number one in the world?

*Arthur Rotmil spotlights t*

**IVO VIKTOR of Czeckoslovakia had been widely acclaimed as the best goalkeeper in Europe, possibly in the world. His status was confirmed by the recent poll in which journalists from nearly every European country voted for their choice as "European Footballer of the Year".**

Whilst one can argue about the merits of this, or any other method of nominating players, it is undeniable that this annual election as organised by the French soccer weekly "France Football" is acknowledged by the specialised Press throughout Europe as the most authoritative and valid verdict.

Viktor, who received 52 votes, was placed as the third best footballer overall in Europe behind the winner Franz Beckenbauer and the Dutch forward Robby Rensenbrink, but ahead of any other goalkeeper. Incidentally, no British 'keeper received even one single vote! So much for the constant appraisal in the British Press of our own custodians, ranging from Pat Jennings to Ray Clemence, Peter Shilton and even one or two others whose names are probably quite unfamiliar to most European experts, but who nevertheless are "rated" world class — only in the British Isles that is!

Ivo Viktor of Czechoslovakia watches as Uli Hoeness puts his penalty wide during the 1976 European Championship Final.

# The Czechoslovakian goalkeeper

Of the four goalkeepers for whom votes were cast with the European poll there came after Viktor: the splendid Yvan Curkovic, a Yugoslav, now with St. Etienne in France (12 votes); Jurgen Croy of Sachsenring Zwickau and East Germany (4) and Dino Zoff of Juventus and Italy (1).

Here it is worth pointing out that no British goalkeeper was ever ranked in the first three in Europe. This poll, now exactly 20 years in existence, has in fact produced only three goalkeepers in the leading trio of "Footballers of the Year": Apart from Viktor, it was Yashin of Russia who won the trophy in 1963 and Zoff (Italy) who was second in 1973.

And thus, at the age of nearly 35, the brilliant Ivo Viktor of the Czech Army club Dukla Prague can bask in the knowledge that he is widely regarded as the best goalkeeper, probably in the world. Considering that in South America, for instance, after the retirement first of Gilmar, the most capped goalkeeper in the world with 100 call ups for Brazil, and more recently since the fading of the ageing Mazurkiewicz (Uruguay), who was voted the best goalkeeper in the 1966 World Cup tournament in England, there has not been a custodian to compare with the best in Europe. The leading contender is now Hugo Gatti of Argentina.

## Glorious

Viktor's high ranking stems of course from his superlative displays in the finals of the European Championship which his country won last June. It was a marvellous climax to a fine and long career which has now brought him 65 caps. But unhappily, his most glorious season was followed by a big disappointment.

Due to a complicated back injury and subsequent recurrence of the trouble, Viktor has not played for the national side this term. He is making good progress and would dearly love to play in Czechoslovakia's next World Cup qualifying tie against Wales at Wrexham on March 30. After their 2-0 win over Scotland the European champions are confident of winning this group.

The long winter break has seemed even longer than usual as Viktor battles to get fit for the second half of the season — his club Dukla held a five-point lead at the half way stage and has high hopes for the title. And especially for further international honours. Viktor started to play football in the little Moravian town of Sternberk, where he was born.

At first in youth and local soccer, then with the Moravian second League club Prostejov, until in 1961 he entered army service in Brno with the Ruda Hvezda (Red Star) Brno club. At that time their first choice 'keeper was the famous international Schmaker and so Viktor had few opportunities to play in the first team. But although he was the club's second custodian he gained recognition in the "Under 23-team" and when he ended his army stint there, some ten clubs showed interest in signing him!

One of the first was Slovan Bratislava followed by the equally famous Sparta and Slavia. Naturally Red Star Brno, who meanwhile had changed their name to Spartak, wanted him to stay on after the army service, but Viktor was determined to join a club with good prospects. He knew what it meant to fight every year against relegation and he had had enough of these nerve-racking affairs as he puts it: "After every match I felt one year older. It was enough to make one mistake and the dream of staying in the First Division for the next season was broken".

**And so Viktor did not stay in Brno, nor did he take up a similar offer from Bohemians because they too had to fight against relegation, quite often. He thought that he was too young for such desperate matches and decided therefore to stay in the army but to change from Brno to Prague — and to join Dukla.**

He knew that Pavel Kouba, who played several times for the national team was there and came in as the second string. Within a year they both had played an equal number of games for the first team and then Kouba decided to leave. He was transferred to Sparta and thus Viktor was promoted to the club's No. 1 goalkeeper; Dukla incidentally offered the best conditions for training.

In 1965 he was selected for the first time for the national team and went on a tour of South America. Viktor's debut could not have been tougher: In the giant Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro he faced the might of Brazil then preparing for the World Cup of 1966. The hosts fielded their strongest side with Pelé, who was then in outstanding form and scored both goals in their 2-1 win.

During his various travels Viktor had been able to study the various goalkeeping techniques in many lands and he feels he has learned from these experiences. He found that South American and indeed Latin 'keepers play too much to the gallery instead of concentrating on safety. He feels that in modern football the custodians have a more important role than for example before the war, when they stood on the goal line and waited for the ball. Nowadays, says Viktor, goalkeepers must command the whole of the penalty area and often fight with forwards for high passes and crosses which he regards as the most difficult aspect of goalkeeping.

That is why he likes English goalkeepers, who are good in the area on high centres and also play a useful game without pandering to the audiences. But as the greatest goalkeeper he has ever seen Viktor rates the Russian Lev Yashin. On the whole he thinks that the position of goalkeeper is not always appreciated, when one considers the transfer fees paid for them or their rare ranking in annual international polls.

Ivo Viktor of Czechoslovakia.

One of Viktor's happiest recollections is his first appearance at Wembley. In November 1966 England, fresh from her World Cup triumph, played its first home match of the following season against Czechoslovakia. The fans expected a feast of goals from their forwards, but Viktor gave a brilliant display and England had to be content with a 0-0 draw!

And now the amiable Viktor is hoping to follow the tradition of great goalkeepers the Czechs have produced in the past. One of the finest of all time was in the 1930' Frantisek Planicka, who captained the national side when it reached the World Cup Final in 1934. Or the brilliant Willem Schroiff, who also stood in a Final of a World Cup in 1962. It is Viktor's greatest dream to emulate these two idols or perhaps go one better and end his career with a World Cup winners' medal!

# MENOTTI'S JOB

● *Continued from page 13*

What Menotti's team is doing at the moment is to defend against its own type of attacking tactics which few, if any, of the opposition will use and to attack in a way which most of the players haven't mastered (because they don't do it at their own club).

But they will have opportunities enough to learn their shortcomings. While Argentina are exempt from this year's qualifying matches, they will nevertheless have a busy international programme.

The summer tournament in Mar del Plata, which they won against local clubs Boca Juniors, River Plate, Newell's Old Boys and Aldosivi (Mar del Plata) was merely a way of keeping in shape during the close season. The league championship started on February 20th, but the national team will continue training sessions twice a week on an average. On February 27 they were due to play Hungary in Buenos Aires. In March they were scheduled to play in Real Madrid's 75th anniversary international tournament.

Further international matches have been arranged in Buenos Aires on May 29 v Poland, June 5 v West Germany, June 12 v England, June 18 v Scotland, June 25 v East Germany and July 5 v Yugoslavia. Then in August, Menotti hopes to take the team to play in the United States, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Switzerland and Italy, while further matches may yet be arranged for that tour.

And what does Menotti think of the chances?

He came back from last year's European Nations Cup finals full of confidence because he said Europe's strongest teams were getting old together and would be past their best in 1978, while Argentina's squad has an average age of only 23.

But at the moment his World Cup candidates are West Germany because they have an organised team with great experience; Yugoslavia because of the excellent individual standard; Brazil, Czechoslovakia and England because they have a wealth of young, talented players.

# by ERIC BATTY

# ENGLIS CON TIGHT

**THE MOST surprising feature to me of the recent England — Holland game at Wembley was not the result nor the obvious difference in class and skill between the two teams, but that so many critics (and some of my World Soccer colleagues amongst them) should have been surprised by it all.**

This of course applies more to the national press who reacted to both factors as if it were a surprise.

Certainly it was no surprise to me that the Dutch should prove themselves more skilled than England, though I must confess that playing as they did without a centre forward, it was a little disconcerting to see how easily they penetrated the England rearguard. Holland at their best are one of the best teams in the world and they won because they played very well on the night. To stay with them for a moment, I believe they would be an even better side with an orthodox centre forward like Ruud Geels of Ajax or Nico Jansen of Feyenoord while Cruyff plays like an old fashioned inside forward — which is what he wants to be now.

From a technical point of view there were two basic lessons for the England players to digest. In defence it was clear that the central defenders did not like the fact that they had no one to mark up the middle. What they had to do was watch for men making runs from deep, as Jantje Peters did twice and score, though others made similar runs throughout the game.

At the other end of the pitch, we saw once again, as we have seen whenever England play good class opposition that the striking players are of the wrong kind, for they cannot play together. In fact the strikers cannot play football and this stems from the fact that every Saturday in league matches they are not required to play.

By 'play' I mean popping the ball around first time to the feet of colleagues and running into space looking for the ball back, playing in groups of two three and four . . . much as the Dutch did in midfield.

## Central stoppers

The reason why these problems showed up at Wembley is explained by the fact that for 99% of their careers, the English professional is called upon to play a type of football that is peculiar to the English:

- the central stoppers have to mark and stand up and fight with the enemy's central strikers.
- the central strikers have to chase long passes and shoot, and of course to get into the penalty area and get up and fight for headers to turn high crosses into goals.

No English team ever plays without at least one central striker and the centre backs were clearly baffled by the fact that they had to cover space and watch for (and pick up) men running from midfield. They had never been called upon to do that before.

But the problem at the other end is an old one, epitomised for me by Malcolm Macdonald. Remember he scored five goals against Cyprus and frightened them to death, and for both Newcastle and Arsenal he has shown all the qualities one needs to be a successful goal-getter in English football.

But there is the rub. In the vital matches, for example away to Czechoslovakia Macdonald failed, just as other England strikers failed in Rome.

All this comes down to one fact: that the moment you leave Dover for Calais or Ostend, you are entering a different world. For the ordinary traveller he encounters a different language when he gets off the boat. For the English footballer he enters a different world, where they play a different game.

This is not to say that the Germans, the Dutch, the Belgians and the Hungarians all play the same way. They do not. But they play a game that is vastly different from that practised in England which I christened long ago fight-ball.

But if the foreigners all play slightly different styles they all put more emphasis on skill, intelligence and combined play than we do in England. True the kind of game played in England does require team play, but it is of a different kind. Tackles, pass and run; jump to head, and run are what the English players need to do, all at a very high speed.

In fact speed is the key word, for the English game is played now at a pace at which the players cannot think. The game is too fast. So fast that no one can think while he is involved with the game.

What the Dutch and Italians did in beating England this season was to slow the game down. When the game is played at a pace at which the players can think, they also have time to look around before the ball comes to them. Look around and think. If they also have the skill to beat a man and screen the ball with their bodies from opponents then they also have time to look and think when they have the ball.

What happens whenever a team of the English school meets a foreign team is intriguing, one of the aspects of the game that keeps me watching it.

The critical factor is that in the opening minutes there is a battle. This battle might go on for as long as ten minutes or even twenty, and the result of the game depends on how this battle comes out.

The English team wants to play the game at THEIR SPEED while the foreigners want to slow it down and play the game their way. If we go back something over two years to the England-Czechoslovakia game it may be remembered that England had all the play, pressing forward towards the Czech goal almost all the time and eventually they won 3-0 because in the end, the Czechs couldn't stand the pace, they couldn't cope with the pace.

But over the years I've seen many of these battles won by the foreigners, just as the Dutch won this battle in the recent Wembley game.

The classic example of this struggle or confrontation will live forever in my mind. It came in the first two minutes of a game I saw between Wolverhampton Wanderers (when they were champions) and Real Madrid.

In the first few seconds the ball came to Alfredo Di Stefano. Ron Flowers had been detailed to mark him and try to shut him out of the game. As the ball arrived at Di Stefano's feet, so too did Flowers, storming into a sliding tackle. Di Stefano went up in the air from the force of the contact and the ball ran loose. First point to Wolves.

Within a very short space of time the ball again was on its way to the feet of Di Stefano and once more Flowers closed in for the kill. Sliding in, Flowers put everything he had into the challenge, but this time the ball disappeared. This time Di Stefano received the ball with the inside of his foot and with the ball apparently glued to his boot. Di Stefano withdrew his foot and let the ball travel as far as his leg would stretch.

The result was that just for an instant, Flowers lay on the ground, his tackling leg fully extended. Standing above Flowers was Di Stefano, perfectly balanced on his left foot with the ball under his toe almost a yard and a half away. Di Stefano casually rolled the ball away with the sole of his boot, and was off on his way, but before going he looked down at Flowers and as their eyes met, Di Stefano laughed!

Flowers now knew that if he steamed into Di Stefano he was likely to be made to look a fool, and not wanting that he approached more cautiously the next time Di Stefano got the ball. Flowers went up to him, and stopped when he was two yards away, slightly crouching and ready to pounce, nicely balanced to tackle, but not going in unless he knew he had a good chance of winning the ball.

From that moment on the game was won and lost. Di Stefano had won the battle to determine the speed at which the game was going to be played. It was going to be played at *his* pace and when ever Di Stefano got the ball from then on, the game not only slowed down, it actually stopped.

Stanley Matthews was another player who had this ability to slow the game down to nought miles per hour. To do so requires real individual skill. All that needs to be done is to impress on your opponent that if he steams into the tackle then you are going to beat him every time. Do that and you have won.

Of course, players like Di Stefano and Matthews are no more, but it can also be done by skilful players combining together. As a man steams into the tackle the ball is passed on to a colleague and there another challenging player steams in too late, because the ball has gone first time. This scenario is punctuated by the referee's whistle for late tackles and fouls, and within a few minutes the (English) defending

# LISH STRIKERS N FUSED BY T DEFENCES

Malcolm Macdonald in action for Arsenal against Ipswich Town at Highbury.

team changes their approach. They go up to the man in possession and jockey off. Again the game has been slowed down. It is this ability to change the rhythm of the game that English players lack. They have to play domestic football at top speed, even the most skilful English players are under orders to play the ball early, to bring their strikers into the game with good long passes.

There is nothing new in this except that the English game has got faster and faster in recent years. Now it has reached the point where players make errors on the ball and give off bad passes because they are being forced to play at a speed which is beyond their capabilities. This is why in English league games, many promising attacking moves break down. The players do not have the skill to play at the pace their manager demands.

Of course English teams like Liverpool and Manchester United can be successful against foreign teams. But they cannot beat the best. The top teams abroad will always control the game when they meet, through their superior ball skill, intelligence and combined play. But to the die-hard English fans it is some consolation that there are not many club teams in Europe good enough to do this.

The same applies to England at Wembley. Assuming that the individual England players play to something like their club form, then England will usually beat foreign teams. The foreigners may make it difficult for them as Finland did, but the really top class outfits will always do it. Again however there are not many national teams that can do it at Wembley because while they try to play the right kind of game, they are not good enough at it to win the battle of pace.

But once England go abroad it is a different matter. To see the better, more skilful, combined football that the better teams play you don't need to go far from Dover. A boat to Calais, and fifteen minutes on a train from Ostend to Bruges, or Brugge as the Belgians call it, and you find a team that will give you a good idea of what I mean. FC Bruges are no super team, but they are good enough to show those who take the trouble to go, some idea of the European game.

For the English there is just one over-riding question. Are we satisfied to beat MOST teams at Wembley but lose to the top class outfits or do we want to be able to beat the best in the world?

Right now there are not more than three or four teams in the world that could win at Wembley, though many more would beat England on their own soil. If we want to rejoin the elite, we shall have to go back to school and learn the basics of the game and pass them on to our players.

Unfortunately in educational terms I don't believe that the English who are in high school are ready to pay the price. To get to the soccer University, England will have to go back to the primary school and go right through the system from the bottom. There is no way that England can gain entry to the University of soccer from the British high school because the University entrance exam is based on skill and intelligence.

Until the English First Division clubs make the switch and slow their game down to base it on skill and intelligence with the ball played around to feet there will be no improvement. The England team reflects English League football and if in terms of courage, speed and physical commitment it is the most competitive in the world, it is well down the list when it comes to skill and entertainment. But England fans should not be too downhearted. I repeat, there are not many teams that can win at Wembley, only the first class teams and England, although second class can still beat most of the foreigners at home.

# Player Portrait on Rob Resenbrink

**IN ANY other team but Holland, Rob Rensenbrink would be the big star. He's sharp, lithe and he carries a rasping shot. He can change direction, the ball mesmerised at his feet, without pausing to shift weight or worry about stranded defenders swinging recklessly into late tackles.**

In short, at Anderlecht he receives top billing, but in the shadow of Johan Cruyff he's just one more brilliant individual fitting into a team whose most captivating individual happens to be someone else.

And that's not easy. Many big clubs have found that too many big stars are a positive hindrance; everyone wants to run the show; everyone wants all the attention. To be prepared to play second fiddle is an exercise in teamwork and self-abnegation which requires more than instinctive ability.

It needs the soccer intelligence which Rensenbrink so clearly possesses.

And, bearing that in mind, it's thought-provoking to consider whether he would have developed as fully had he been snapped up in his late teens by one of the top Dutch clubs. Instead he had to make his own way, the hard way, forcing his way into the top flight of European soccer by dint of his perseverance into the shadows.

Rensenbrink, born in Amsterdam on July 3, 1947, played his first serious football with DWS and moved to Brugge in 1968.

Having missed the boat (as it appeared) in Holland, Rensenbrink was all the more determined to use his Belgian chance to make a name for himself and it was in 1970 that he and Brugge achieved something, winning the Belgian Cup.

That provided Rensenbrink with his first steps on the European stage and in 1970-71 while Brugge were on their way to third place in the league they also reached the quarter finals of the Cup-winners' Cup.

Rensenbrink played in all six ties, scoring once in each leg in the second round 2-0, 2-3 victory over Zurich. That high point was sandwiched, however, between unimpressive victory over Kickers Offenbach (1-2, 2-0) and lively defeat (2-0, 0-4) against eventual winners Chelsea.

That was Rensenbrink's last season with Brugge, for his potential had already persuaded Constant Vanden Stock, president of Anderlecht, that here was the very man to replace veteran Wilfried Puis. In an ideal switch (for Anderlecht, that is), the two men swapped clubs.

Now Rensenbrink's career was to be borne on the wings of real success. In his first season Anderlecht, when they beat Standard Liege 1-0 in the Cup Final, had achieved the League and Cup double and in 1972-73 Rensenbrink found himself promoted to the Champions' Cup for the first time.

The previous season Anderlecht's flirtation with the UEFA Cup had ended in the first round — 1-1, 0-2 to Bologna. But the first round in the Champions' Cup was not only a cakewalk, but a personal triumph.

Rensenbrink scored twice in each leg against the Danish part-timers of Vejle BK as Anderlecht won 4-2 at home and 3-0 away.

**That was all his success in Europe for the season. In fact he disgraced himself in the second round first leg when Anderlecht lost 1-0 to Spartak Trnava. Faced with a penalty kick to pull level, Rensenbrink had a fit of nerves and refused his usual job. Skipper Paul van Himst decided to take the kick himself . . . and missed.**

Anderlecht attacked all the way through the second leg and lost a late goal to a Masrna breakaway. Out.

Anderlecht finished sixth in the league — ironically Brugge were champions — but they won the Cup, beating Standard 2-1 in the final despite Rensenbrink fluffing another penalty.

The first Cup-winners' round saw Zurich paired against them. Anderlecht dominated the first leg in Brussels with Rensenbrink, incredibly, having a fierce shot from the edge of the six-yard box, blocked. And then the Swiss stole away to snatch a 2-0 lead by the half-hour mark.

## by Keir Radnedge

Anderlecht's record for fighting back from the brink of disaster is not a notably good one, but on this occasion, with Rensenbrink turning on all the tricks, they finished 3-2 winners. Rensenbrink got two, but there was no repeat in the return. Zurich won 1-0, and Anderlecht went on the away goals rule.

In the league Anderlecht were champions again, but they sent only one man to the World Cup Finals in neighbouring West Germany — Rensenbrink, with Holland, who had eliminated the Belgians on goal difference in the qualifiers.

The Dutch were in the finals for the first time since 1934 and likely to make the most of it. With Cruyff back from Spain, manager Rinus Michels could recreate the Ajax bloc and Rensenbrink was thus expected to figure merely among the reserves. It was far more probable that Michels would prefer the man he knew best, Ajax skipper Piet Keizer.

## Warm-up

In fact Rensenbrink had played in only one of the qualifying games, the second 0-0 draw with Belgium before 63,000 in Amsterdam which saw the Dutch through.

Michels gave him and Keizer equal chances of making the team for the finals. Rensenbrink didn't play in the warm-up friendly against Hamburg (won 2-1) but was restored for his 11th international in the Amsterdam friendly with Argentina. He did well, too — heading in a Cruyff free kick for one goal, and breaking through before the foul and the penalty which Neeskens converted for another.

Rensenbrink played too in the 0-0 draw with Rumania, but was excluded for the last game — a 2-1 win over the Kickers Offenbach. Yet there he was, favoured ahead of Keizer, for Holland's eagerly-awaited opening match in the finals. That game saw Holland to a 2-0 win over the rugged Uruguayans, but though it was a result which delighted football fans in many countries, Michels wasn't entirely happy, and recalled Keizer for Rensenbrink against the Swedes.

**It was not a good idea. Keizer had a miserable time and the Dutch were disappointingly held 0-0. Rensenbrink returned against Bulgaria and contributed fully to a free-flowing exhibition which the Dutch won 4-1.**

Now they were into the second round with Rensenbrink a fixture after the 4-0 win over Argentina and the 2-0 defeat of East Germany. Rensenbrink scored his first World Cup goal in this latter match and in the 2-0 victory over Brazil had a major part to play in both goals.

But the game finished early for him. Half

and hour from time he pulled a muscle and was substituted by Theo de Jong. Along with Johan Neeskens and goalkeeper Jan Jongbloed, Rensenbrink was one of three Dutch injury doubts for the final with West Germany.

Neeskens and Jongbloed were soon fully fit again, but Rensenbrink's inclusion was a gamble, and by half-time it was clear this was one gamble which had failed. The acceleration was missing, so was the confidence to tease and ride the tackles and at half-time Rensenbrink's World Cup Final was over.

Still, he had done enough in the previous few games to convince Ajax that the man to follow Keizer in the Holland team was also the man to take his place in the club team. Ajax had money to spare from the sale of Neeskens to Barcelona and offered Anderlecht £350,000.

Anderlecht weren't interested in cash. President Vanden Stock suggested tentatively that Ajax might offer Johnny Rep in part-exchange, but Ajax jibbed at that — already the sales of Cruyff and Neeskens had upset the fans. To let Rep go would be to risk a revolution.

So Rensenbrink stayed, and Anderlecht cashed in early in the new season. He hit five goals in the first six games and they were on top of the world. But not for long. Two points came from four games, there were rumours of unrest and an outburst from Rensenbrink against the amount of vitamin pills and injections the players had to put up with. Gates sunk to a record low of 9,000 and RWD Molenbeek came through to beat Anderlecht 1-0 and go on to the league title.

Any hopes of success in the Champions' Cup were ended with defeats home and away by Leeds. Rensenbrink, at least, distinguished himself in the second round, hitting a hat-trick (including two penalties) in the stormy 5-1 win over Olympiakos Piraeus.

# A star among Dutch galaxy

Rob Rensenbrink (left) in action for Anderlecht.

The closing stages of the season saw transition under way. Coach Urbain Braems was notified early that a 39-year-old Dutchman, Hans Croon, would be in his place the next season, and for £153,000 Arie Haan joined from Ajax.

Anderlecht did win the Cup and immediately afterwards Hungarian-born centre forward Attila Ladinszky went to Betis Seville and long-serving Paul van Himst shocked Belgian soccer by moving to RWD.

These two moves threw extra responsibility onto Rensenbrink's slim shoulders. Despite the signing of Feyenoord's Peter Ressel, it was clear that Rensenbrink was expected to be the major goalscorer in future, as well as the dominant star.

Anderlecht's early form wasn't encouraging. They lost their four-year unbeaten home record but finished second in the league to Brugge and retained the Cup with a 4-0 win over Lierse in the final.

But it was this spring that Rensenbrink finally confirmed his arrival as one of Europe's top players.

In the European Championships Holland went through to finish third. But because of Anderlecht's heavy commitments, Rensenbrink played in only a few of the early games. One was the 3-1 win over Italy in Rotterdam, another was the quarter final first leg against Belgium.

And it was here that he crucified his own club colleagues with a hat-trick in Holland's 5-0 win. The return went Holland's way too — 2-1 — but in the finals Yugoslavia internal wrangles centring on Cruyff and manager Georg Knobel got the better of the team.

In the semi-final Holland went down 3-2 to Czechoslovakia, but then beat Yugoslavia 3-2 with Rensenbrink taking the starring role in the absence of the suspended Barcelona pair.

**But the Dutch failure to win didn't reflect too well on even Rensenbrink, and though he was in no way to blame he was tarred with the brush of failure, discouraging Real Madrid, who were desperately looking for a new man to breathe some life into their ailing team.**

Madrid's interest had been aroused by Rensenbrink's form in the Cup-winners' Cup, which brought Anderlecht their first European trophy after a 4-2 win in their own back yard — Brussels's Heysel stadium — over West Ham.

Rensenbrink scored in every round. He hit one in the 0-1, 2-0 first round win over Rapid Bucharest, two in the 3-0, 0-1 defeat of Borac Banjaluka and one (a vital second leg equaliser) in the narrow 1-0, 1-1 victory over Wrexham in the quarter finals.

In the semi-finals Rensenbrink hit the net once in each leg in the 3-0, 2-0 win over Sachsenring Zwickau and proved unstoppable after a slow start in the final itself.

## Glorious

West Ham took the lead, but just before half-time Frank Lampard made a hash of a back pass, Ressel centred and Rensenbrink did the rest. Three minutes after half-time he laid on the pass for François van der Elst to make it 2-1, and though West Ham fought back to level terms, it was Rensenbrink who finally laid their hopes to rest.

Fouled by Pat Holland, he converted the penalty and was in there at the start of the move which saw van der Elst go running clear for No. 4 just before time.

It was a glorious match-winning performance from the perceptive Dutchman and even European champions Bayern Munich fell under his spell in the Super Cup matches last autumn. Though Bayern won 2-1 with two late Gerd Müller goals in Munich, they were thrashed 4-1 in Brussels — and it was all down to Rensenbrink. He scored two himself and made the others for Haan and van der Elst.

From there Anderlecht hit their now-traditional early bad patch. There was trouble over the on-off transfer of Duncan McKenzie and Haan lost form. There was no easy ride, either, in the early round of the Cup-winners' Cup.

> **'He was expected to be the major goalscorer in future as well as the dominant star'**

Holland's Roda came to the Parc Astrid, led for 80 minutes and it was only late, late goals from van der Elst and Rensenbrink which saved the day. The return was tough, too. Again Roda scored first before Anderlecht recovered in the second half thanks to a Rensenbrink goal, and won 3-2.

Galatasaray came next. No problem. Anderlecht won 5-1 home *and* away, with Rensenbrink getting two in the first leg, one in the second.

The mid-winter hiatus took Anderlecht out of the European spotlight. But not Rensenbrink. First he was acclaimed runner-up to Franz Beckenbaur in the European footballer of the year poll, then Belgium's journalists rated him the No. 1 in his adopted homeland.

A lot of Rensenbrink's supporters made a lot of fuss about his second place in the European poll — claiming that he was far more worthy a winner than Beckenbaur. But Rensenbrink wasn't too concerned.

You see, there is one award more than any other which he would prize — a winners' medal with Holland in the 1978 World Cup.

Rensenbrink's greatest regret, looking back over his career, remains the last-hurdle failure in 1974.

**Next year he will be nearly 31 when the finals come round again. It will be his last chance and that knowledge could help him bear the extra responsibility if, as we are *told*, Cruyff prefers to travel to Argentina as a mere spectator.**

# Euro-Review

compiled by Keir Radnedge

**AS IF Gerd Müller's back injury wasn't enough to cope with, along with their poor league form, Bayern had another worry as they went into their Champions' Cup quarter final, with Dynamo Kiev.**

Fellow World Cup-winner Uli Hoeness will need yet another operation at the end of the season on the knee he damaged against Leeds in Paris almost two years ago.

At least, to even the battle a little, Bayern went out into the pouring rain in the Olympiastadion to take on a Kiev team also troubled by injury. There would be no Viktor Kolotov to trouble them in midfield, or Vladimir Onischenko to distract some of the defensive attention from Oleg Blokhin.

In the event, the Ukrainians concentrated on defence, and that helped Bayern, giving skipper Franz Beckenbauer freedom to move forward even more than usual and make up a little for the loss of the skills of Müller.

There was only an occasional counter for Kiev, for Blokhin was well tied up. Still, he had the best early chance, after 21 minutes, only to blast hurriedly over Sepp Maier's goal.

Bayern put on a far better show than in the league, and went ahead two minutes before half-time when Rainer Künkel, preferred at centre-forward to the inexperienced Turk, Erhan Onal, scored the only goal.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge headed in a corner, Yevgeni Rudakov pushed the ball out and Jupp Kapellmann robbed a defender to roll the ball into Künkel's path.

A one-goal lead isn't a lot, even though Rudakov gloomily observed afterwards that he thought it would be easier for Bayern in Kiev! Real pessimists, the Soviet club. Before the game coach Valeri Lobanovksy said he thought Bayern were likely to win the Champions' Cup for a fourth year.

At least 1-0 was a better result than that obtained by West German champions, **Borussia Moenchengladbach.** Not only were they held 2-2 in Düsseldorf, but at one stage were 2-0 down!

Borussia, who had let a six-point lead disappear in the league, looked right out of step as **Brugge** dominated the first half. Julian Cools scored the first and Paul Courant the second. Christian Kulik pulled one back before half-time and that made all the difference.

In the second half Borussia looked a different team, but without cartilage operation victim Jupp Heynckes hardly looked dangerously incisive. Still, as Brugge were pressed back there were bookings for Roger Davies and George Leekens.

Yet the equaliser was a gift. Danish goalkeeper Birger Jensen dropped a cross at the feet of Allan Simonsen, and his fellow countryman did all the rest.

A draw away from home was nearly the happy result for East Germany's **Dynamo Dresden** at **Zurich.** Instead, at the end of an admirable game on a heavy pitch the fans were streaming away as Peter Risi headed in a last-minute winner.

Zurich had prepared for the match as if for a commando course. West German coach Timo Konietzka had his men playing practice matches of 120 minutes' duration and without a referee — "so that they get used to being fouled without getting the free kicks."

Four minutes before half-time Franco Cuccinotta, their Sicilian striker, hit in a Pirmin Stierli cross, and it wasn't until quarter of an hour from the end that Dresden substitute Hans-Jürgen Kreische — with his first kick — equalised.

But at least **Saint-Etienne** didn't have to wait quite as long for their winner, against **Liverpool,** though it wasn't until 11 minutes from time that Gerard Janvion flicked in Jean-Michel Larqué's corner, and Dominique Bathenay rattled it home.

This was hardly the lively Saint-Etienne who had so excited fans at last year's Champions' Cup final. Playing 4-4-2 and relying much more on the individual talent of Dominique Rocheteau than their basic teamwork, they found their attacks floundering time and again on the rock-solid Liverpool defence.

England's champions were without Kevin Keegan (leg strain) but still showed their facility in attack, though for most of the time it was the French who were pressing forward and a stream of long back passes from Liverpool earned jeers of derision from the capacity 38,400 crowd.

In the first minute Rocheteau beat Joey Jones, but Patrick Revelli just missed his cross, and then Phil Neal had to head back past his own goal to clear. After 13 minutes Ray Clemence was forced to a good save after Larqué freed Revelli, and then it was Larqué not far off from 20 yards.

A steve Heighway shot, tipped over by Yvan Curkovic, was the nearest Liverpool came to a goal. In the 63rd minute Revelli headed over Saint-Etienne's best chance, and seven minutes later he was nearly made to regret that miss.

**Bavern Munich 1** (Künkel 43)
**Dynamo Kiev 0**
HT: 1-0. Att: 73,000

**Borussia Mg 2** (Kulik 43, Simonsen 62)
**FC Brugge 2** (Cools 23, Courant 39;
HT: 1-2. Att: 65,000

**Saint-Etienne 1** (Bathenay 80)
**Liverpool 0**
HT: 0-0. Att: 38,400

**FC Zurich 2** (Cuccinotta 41, Risi 89)
**Dynamo Dresden 1** (Kreische 77)
HT: 1-0. Att: 19,000

## CUP-WINNERS' CUP

**ANDERLECHT'S RECORD against British teams in Europe is not good. And after the trouble they had with Wrexham last year, it was hardly surprising that they were nervous of Second Division Southampton.**

**The English FA Cup-holders — about to lose their trophy — were without the ineligible Alan Ball for the first leg in the Parc Astrid, but they made a good enough start when Jan Ruiter had to dive to block a Nick Holmes shot after just six minutes.**

**After ten minutes Southampton had full back David Peach booked for pulling back Peter Ressel, and the Dutch winger's speed and nuisance value was a bad omen. With half an hour gone 21-year-old Manny Andruszewski misjudged a long pass from Jean Thissen and Rob Rensenbrink accelerated away to cross for Ressel to score goal No 1.**

**Mike Channon, in fine form, had a headed 'goal' disallowed for offside, then François van der Elst, unmarked, wasted a great chance by shooting straight at goalkeeper Peter Wells.**

**The second half started like the first, with an early Southampton raid — through Ted MacDougall — forcing Ruiter to his best, and then the Belgian club taking over.**

**With Arie Haan in good form in midfield, Rensenbrink forced a fine save from Wells then Ludo Coeck shot narrowly over the bar. With ten minutes to go MacDougall wasted Southampton's best chance, shooting high with only Ruiter to beat . . . and that was fatal.**

**Peter Osgood, who had played well throughout, gave the ball away carelessly in midfield and this time it was Ressel who laid on a goal for Rensenbrink.**

**That was the most clear-cut of all the Cup-winners' Cup first leg matches. After *Hamburg* went 1-0 up in Hungary thanks to Georg Volkert, *MTK/VM* hit back for a 1-1 draw, and *Napoli* set themselves up for a semi-final place thanks to a 0-0 draw away to *Slask Wroclaw*, which owed something to poor finishing as much as sound defence.**

**One of the best games of the three competitions this time round was in Sofia, where *Levsky-Spartak* beat *Atletico Madrid* 2-1.**

**The Bulgarians' star was centre forward Kiril Milanov, who made one of their goals and scored the other. After nine minutes it was his corner which Gheorgi Tsvetkov hit past Jose Luis Pacheco and after 36 minutes he was on the spot himself when Pacheco couldn't hold a drive through a crowd of defenders. It was Milanov's 12th goal of the competition.**

**Atletico pushed forward more purposefully in the second half, and Ruben Ayala scored the goal which sent them home convinced they were already virtually through to the last four.**

**RSC Anderlecht 2** (Ressel 30, Rensenbrink 83)
**Southampton 0**
HT: 1-0. Att: 33,500

**Levsky-Spartak Sofia 2** (Tsvetkov 9, Milanov 38)
**Atletico Madrid 1** (Ayala 68)
HT: 2-0. Att: 60,000

**MTK/VM Budapest 1** (Borso 78)
**SV Hamburg 1** (Volkert 71)
HT: 0-0. Att: 11,000

**Slask Wroclaw 0**
**Napoli 0**
Att: 52,000

Gerry Francis scores his second penalty for QPR against AEK Athens in a UEFA Cup, first leg, match at Loftus Road. QPR won 3-0.

## UEFA CUP

MOST IMPRESSIVE win of all in these first legs was that of Juventus, beating Magdeburg 3-1 in East Germany.

The Italians were without the suspended Franco Causio, but his absence seemed to have little effect on the speed with which they launched a devastating series of counter-punches.

After only two minutes they were ahead through Sardinian midfielder Antonello Cuccureddu, and though Jurgen Sparwasser equalised in the 36th minute, breakaway goals from Romeo Benetti and Roberto Boninsegna in the second half did the rest.

Magdeburg forced 16 corners, but made no further impression in a good match which saw Tardelli, Furino, Gentile and Steinbach all booked by Welsh referee, Tom Reynolds.

The other clear-cut UEFA Cup victory was that achieved by *Queen's Park Rangers* against *AEK Athens* — a tie which nearly went to Wembley. Rangers wanted to switch the match to the Thursday evening at the 100,000 capacity stadium, but UEFA refused permission because the Greeks did not agree.

QPR had wanted to switch for two reasons — one being the estimated £50,000 receipts they might take, the other being the poor state of their own Loftus Road pitch.

In the event the only complaint about playing at Loftus Road could have been the size of the crowd, only 23,000. Certainly they adapted far better to the conditions than the Greeks, and inside 12 minutes were 2-0 ahead thanks to two Gerry Francis penalties.

Francis thus claimed six goals in five games since his recovery from a back injury which had kept him out all season. His first spot kick followed a foul on Stan Bowles, his second a trip on Don Givens.

By half-time it was all over, with the Greeks claiming offside in vain as Don Masson took over a move begun by Frank McLintock, to create a third goal for Bowles — his 11th in the competition this season, a British scoring record in Europe.

QPR's defence gave little chance to AEK's dangerous West German striker, Walter Wagner, and the victory margin could have been greater had Givens not hesitated in front of goal with 20 minutes to go.

Dave Sexton, QPR's manager, warned afterwards that the atmosphere in Athens would make the return tough for his team, but it was hardly going to be as hard as that in the *Bilbao-Barcelona* return.

In Bilbao's own stadium, the Basques went a goal down after quarter of an hour to Juan Manuel Asensi, but hit back to win with goals from Ignacio Churruca (before half-time) and Carlos Dani (from a penalty, after).

With Bilbao having recently toppled CFB from the league leadership by taking advantage of Johan Cruyff's suspension to win in Barcelona, they clearly needed a bigger lead to face Nou Camp with any measure of confidence.

Finally, a surprise for *Feyenoord*, held 0-0 at home by *RWD Molenbeek*. Feyenoord's poor form of late looks like costing them the championship, and it could rule them out of the competition they won a couple of years back.

Nico Jansen and Willy Kreuz had a couple of good early chances, but each time Nico de Bree was equal to them. RWD hit back later on, encouraged by Jansen's bad miss just before half-time. Two players were booked, Jan Boskamp of RWD after five minutes for a foul on Theo de Jong, and Mladen Ramljak in the second half.

**Athletic Bilbao 2** (Churuca 40, Dani 63 pen)
**Barcelona 1** (Asensi 12)
HT: 1-1. Att: 52,500

**Feyenoord 0**
**RWD Molenbeek 0**
Att: 40,000

**FC Magdeburg 1** (Streich 32)
**Juventus 3** (Cuccureddu 2, Benetti 58, Boninsegna 63)
HT: 1-1. Att: 30,000

**Queen's Park Rangers 3** (Francis 7, 15 both pens, Bowles 43)
**AEK Athens 0**
HT: 3-0. Att: 23,039

# Hope for A through M

WHETHER OR not the World Cup of 1978 will take place in Argentina, who can say? FIFA's World Cup Committee is behaving, as one would expect, in typical head-in-the-sand manner. On the other hand, a West German television producer in sport, who recently came back from a visit to Buenos Aires assures me that everything is overtly quiet and peaceful; which presumably means that the torture, repression, intimidation and murder that is unquestionably going on, not to mention attempts to blow up the President's aircraft, are at least being kept from public view.

The true danger is that extremists will see in the World Cup a Heaven-sent chance to promote their cause with acts of terrorism. South America, alas, is turning into one great prison, and if one eschews a given country, one is inevitably faced with another whose regime is almost as bad. Vicious things have gone on and, according to that splendid body Amnesty International, are still going on in Brazilian gaols and police stations, but I don't think things there are quite as bad as they are in Argentina; there do seem to be certain elements of hope.

Curiously enough, there *is* hope in the specific and restricted sphere of Argentinian football itself. The thuggery of the national team under Juan Carlos Lorenzo, of the Estudiantes team under Zubeldia, will be a thing of the past if the admirable new national team manager Luis Cesar Menotti has his way.

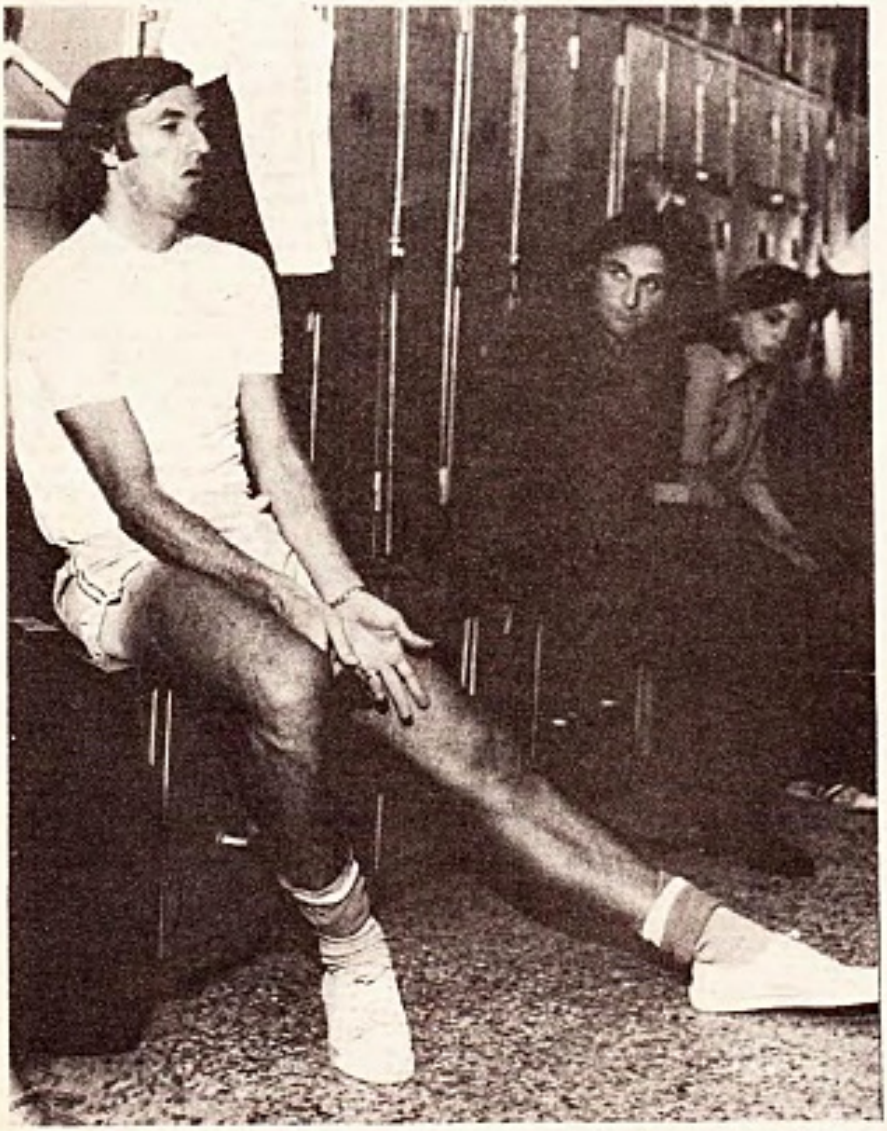
Menotti, who is only 38, finished his playing career at a gentle trot with the New York Generals in the summer of 1967. I never met him then, though I spent a month and a half of that summer in New York, but I remember him as a large, elegant, lazy player with a nice touch and no great desire to get involved in the game; understandable perhaps in view of the depressing standard of the "pirate" soccer league to which the Generals belonged, and the tendency of certain teams to kick first and ask questions afterwards.

## Considered

Menotti did not, then, look the kind of man who would turn into an inspiring manager, but this he very quickly did, revolutionising the Huaracan club, which had never done anything of consequence, had always been considered one of the less fashionable Buenos Aires sides, and making it for a couple of years the outstanding team in the country. With Babington and Brindisi, little René Houseman to dazzle on the wings, Huaracan won not by intimidatory methods, as Estudiantes had so sombrely prevailed, but by playing splendid, attacking football.

Now Menotti wants Argentina themselves to play such football; to return, that is to say, to the more positive side of an Argentinian tradition which has always been strangely and ambivalently polarised between virtuosity and violence. When an Italian recently and wryly asked him whether his call for a return to artistic football were not an anachronism, Luis Cesar Menotti, known always to his players as "Cesar", had this to say: "There's a premise: if I were convinced that playing in a closed, rough, simple style I'd win, then I would play in a closed, rough, simple style. But I don't any longer believe in the evolution of football in an athletic sense.

"Apart from racial differences, which cannot be eliminated, everyone, so far as the physical side is concerned, is levelling upwards; we, you the Italians, the Dutch,



Argentina team coach Luis Cesar Menotti, in charge since the end of 1974. In this photo Menotti, talking to reporters, seems to be tired of it all.

# CONTROV

EMILIO GURUCETA MURO, a 36-year-old San Sebastian bachelor, is just about the most controversial referee in Spain.

He's stirred up even more trouble than Ricardo Melero, whose decision to send off Johan Cruyff recently, led to a Barcelona riot and a row likely to force Melero out of soccer altogether.

Guruceta ran into trouble a week after the Cruyff affair, with his handling of the Bilbao-Atletico Madrid game. But as long as seven years ago his refereeing was under fire.

In June 1970, Guruceta took charge of Cup quarter final second leg in Nou Camp between Barcelona and Real Madrid. Madrid were 2-0 up from the first game and though Barcelona didn't score, all went fairly well until the hour mark.

# r Argentina Menotti...

the Germans . . . Talent must make the difference, and to make it, it must not be repressed.

"It's creative capacity that overcomes catenaccio, not physical conflict. Unfortunately I'm the heir to the previous fashion, for the big men. In the last ten years, all over the world, many managers have cast aside authentic talents. They wanted big players. If someone didn't weigh 200 pounds and run the hundred metres in ten seconds, he risked not being considered.

## Qualities

"I think that these athletic qualities have their importance, just like tactics, but that they shouldn't be exaggerated. Ten per cent, no more. You cultivate athletic football, then up comes Beckenbauer, who has talent, he scores a goal, and amen."

Splendid words. Argentina has over the years provided us with some of the most splendid footballers the game has ever seen — Pedernera, Di Stefano, Orsi, Sivori; the list goes on and on. If Menotti can return to the tradition embodied by such players, then I for one would not object were Argentina to win the World Cup.

It is interesting that he wants to bring back from Europe only three of the dozens of Argentinian stars now playing there, and that one of these should be Carlos Bianchi, who for years now has been a prolific scorer of goals for Reims, even though, a couple of years ago, he broke a leg. The others are Mario Kempes, the long legged centre-forward now with Valencia in the Spanish League, a World Cup player in 1974, and another French exile, the superb and versatile centre-half, Oswaldo Piazza, of Saint Etienne.

## The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

The defenestration of another Oswaldo, Brandao, as manager of the Brazilian international team did not surprise me. The team had been fiercely criticised after its poor performances against Bulgaria and a Rin XI, then the goalless draw in Bogota, a match valid for the World Cup.

It did, however, recall to me the rather peevish letter written to his magazine by Peter Pullen, of the Brazilian Commercial Department here, in which he protested, *inter alia*, at my reporting that certain journalists in Los Angeles last summer had been unimpressed by the appointment and methods of Brandao.

This criticism, he said, must have emanated from Rio journalists, Brandao coming from Sao Paolo. So it did; but they seem to have had a point.

Life, alas, imitating art; or perhaps confirming it. In my recent novel, *The Dying of the Light*, I wrote of an embittered, discarded footballing hero of the 1930s and 1940s. He was English and an invention. Silvio Piola is Italian and very real; the best centre-forward of a 1938 World Cup rich in such players, the man who punched a goal against England, which stood, in Milan in 1939, and came back to play his last international against them in Florence at the age of 38, thirteen years later.

Now Piola has been put out to graze by the Italian Federation, after holding for some years a job at the Centro Tecnico Federale — the Federal Technical Centre, now run, believe it or not, by our old friend and defender of Dezso Solti Italo Allodi; at over £50,000 a year.

Piola is in poor health, and his pension is worth only £70 a month. He is understandably extremely bitter. So, indeed, are several other members of the Italian World Cup winning team of 1938, among them the Uruguayan born centrehalf, Andreolo, who, like Piola, till recently worked at the Centro Tecnico at Coverciano, just outside Florence. He, too, has a niggardly pension; though he is less kindly remembered here than Piola.

Andreolo it was who spat at the English referee, Jimmy Jewell, during the England (3) v Rest of Europe (0) match at Highbury, in 1938. Still, it is sad to see him, and the others, in such reduced circumstances.

# OVERSIAL GURUCETA

Then Guruceta awarded Madrid a penalty after a powerful, but fair, tackle by Torres on Velazquez on the edge of the semi-circle. Barcelon's protests were in vain and Madrid scored. Two minutes later CFB full back Eladio Silvestre was sent off and all hell was let loose.

Barcelona walked off in protest and it was five minutes before Guruceta could get the game moving again. With five minutes to play, the score 1-1, and the pitch littered with cushions and other missiles, Guruceta decided he'd had enough.

He blew the final whistle and reached the dressing rooms just ahead of an angry mob. The result was a £900 fine for Barcelona and a warning that more trouble would see Nou Camp closed, and also a six-month suspension for Guruceta.

Undeterred, he returned at the end of six months and continued to establish himself among the best referees in Spain. Not without more trouble. Four years ago he awarded a last-minute penalty which enabled visiting Athletic Bilbao to defeat Elche.

Fans wrecked Guruceta's car. But the Bilbao Press praised him as "a brave, honest referee".

The papers there weren't so generous after Guruceta's handling of this season's Bilbao-Atletico match.

**With 25 minutes gone Guruceta brought out the yellow card to Bilbao's experienced international, Jose Francisco Rojo, for a fairly innocuous foul. Rojo, it seems, didn't keep his voice down as he walked away. His opinion of Guruceta earned a red card and, later, three games' suspension.**

As if that wasn't enough to incense the Bilbao fans, just before half-time Atletico scored the only goal after midfielder Antonio Robi seemed to take the ball over the by-line before crossing.

As Bilbao hesitated, Eugenio Leal shot, Jose Iribar blocked the ball, but Ruben Cano had an easy job following up to score.

The second half saw more thunder clouds gathering. Cushions hailed down, Iribar was booked for dissent and Atletico Miguel Reina for time-wasting. Near the end three angry fans raced onto the pitch and in the melee Reina suffered a back injury which kept him out of two League games and the Cup-winners' quarter final, first leg against Levsky-Spartak Sofia.

# News from France...by ANDRE DUCLOS

**THESE HAVE been good, exciting days for French international football the best for many a long year; but optimism depends very heavily on whether France can hold Eire in Dublin on March 30 in this vital World Cup tie. If not, then the qualification, so to speak, is up for grabs, and Michel Hidalgo, the quiet, encouragingly effective, new team manager knows he didn't see the real Eire in Dublin against Spain. What Eire team, after all, can be real without Johnny Giles: not to mention Gerry Daly.**

# DUBLIN MATCH VITAL

After it had seemed that Dominique Baratelli had firmly held off the claims of our other good young goalkeepers to establish himself. Now suddenly here comes André Rey of Metz; and what makes his emergence doubly interesting is the way his career recalls and even repeats that of his illustrious predecessor, Francois Remetter, goalkeeper of that superb French 1958 World Cup team.

Rey, like Remetter, began his career with Racing Strasbourg and then moved, though only within Alsace, to Metz. Remetter in fact had something to do with this. He was impressed by what he saw of the young Rey's goalkeeping at Strasbourg, even though Rey didn't have a very productive two years there, and persuaded Metz to sign him on. Even Remetter, however, has been surprised by the progress Rey has made since then.

Rey, too, was surprised . . . when he was called into the French party for the well argured game against West Germany. He says that between himself and Bratelli there is no rivalry, that he still regards Bratelli as the natural first choice; and he evokes the parallel situation of Aubour and Carnus, when those fine goalkeepers of the 1960s took turn and turn about in the French goal. They too he recalls, remained good friends, for all their apparent rivalry. "This is necessary, too," he says, "because goalkeepers are rather different from other players. Our training has to be different, too."

## Recognised

Michel Platini, meanwhile, goes from strength to strength, now recognised as one of the finest and most elegant young footballers in Europe, perhaps the outstanding footballer produced by France since the splendid little Raymond Kopa of the 1950s. Platini had the best of the recent "argument" with Franz Beckenbauer and his West German team at the Parc des Princes.

Before the match he remembend how, as an 11-year-old boy, playing football in the blazing sunshine of Meurthe et Moselle, a little industrial city, he stopped in the middle of a football game, along with his companions, to rush indoors to watch the England v West Germany World Cup Final of 1966.

**Of Beckenbauer that day, he says, he remembers nothing at all. He does remember Geoff Hurst's famous third English goal when the ball hit the bar and came down; over the line or not?**

He felt, he remembers, curiously detached from the game, one which seemed to be taking place almost in another world, one which he could scarcely hope to enter. Well, enter it he has, well and truly. Thanks in no small measure to him, there are real possibilities that France might be contesting the World Cup finals for the very first time since that year: 1966.

His Nancy team, it is true, are not doing particularly well. As Saint Etienne continue to slip and slide in the Championship, which will clearly not be theirs this year, Nantes stride away at the head of the table, with Lyon, Lens and Bastia in pursuit and contention.

Jean Vincent, left winger in that famous French team of 1958, a coach in the Far East at the time of the 1966 World Cup — when he warned everybody not only how good the North Koreans would be, but that in his opinion they were better than that French team which took third place — has worked wonders as the new manager, succeeding Arribas.

No fewer than half a dozen Nantes players were called up for the recent international match against Rumania in Bordeaux; though admittedly the Saint Etienne men were not available. The half dozen were: Sahnoun, Amisse, who has been doing such damage on the left wing, Michel, an old acquaintance in French national teams, Baronchelli, a moustached and very new one, Tusseau and Rio; who alas was beaded in the face and suffered a broken nose.

Bruno Baronchelli, only twenty years old, is a revelation of the present season, still doing his military service in the famous Battalion de Joinville; where football comes first. Baronchelli is a modest little fellow of far from modest talent.

His father was a footballer who played full-back for Tours. The son was recommended to Nantes by a journalist and joined them in the summer of 1973. It was the first time he had ever been on a train by himself; and he was impressed by the fact that Nantes had just won the French League title; as he himself may well help them materially to do, this season.

At 18 years old, he made his debut for Nantes at centre-forward against Sochaux, played well — even according to his own, demanding assessment — and Nantes won 1-0. Now he plays on the right flank of the attack; a position in which France at the moment are remarkably well served. There is Dominique Rocheteau, the most gifted and ebullient of them all; there is also the young Olivier Rouyer, team mate of Platini at Nancy, scorer of the goal against West Germany.

Baronchelli, typically, defends Arribas, his first, long-serving, manager from charges of not giving youth its fling. The statistics, he insists, prove otherwise; but perhaps Arribas was a little reluctant to give young players an extended run in the team. Jean Vincent isn't; which is one reason why Nantes are where they are.

West German goalkeeper Sepp Maier saves from the French forwards but his team were beaten 1-0 in Paris.

Alan Ball (second from right) playing cards with England colleagues David Johnson (right), Mike Channon (left), and Kevin Keegan (second left) during his international days.

by Eric Thornton

# Ball —lasting the pace!

IN THESE days of mixed England form, and negative club systems that are spoiling the sport all over the country, it is particularly interesting to note the large number of players who are lasting the pace in the top echelons.

My records indicate there were not nearly so many a few decades ago though, of course, there were plenty of toughies between the wars who never tired of foolishly boasting they would go on forever.

Anyway, just now it seems to be a numbers game which is being contested by those who are following the long-service tradition of greats like Billy Wright, Stanley Matthews, Jimmy Dickinson, Raich Carter, Laurie Scott, Tom Finney, George Hardwick, Dixie Dean, and so on.

The modern spotlight now picks out a few other tremendous performers. To wit: Ian Callaghan, Paul Reeney, Alan Ball, Alex Stepney, and about a dozen more in the Home Countries.

Callaghan, the Liverpool dynamo whose 17-year-old son and heir has himself begun slipping into the first-team squad, is among the pacemakers. And rightly so, when it is realised that 650th game for the Anfielders is not far away. Which represents a heck of a lot of football, whichever way it is looked at!

In most towns the figure I've just mentioned might be regarded with some scepticism but not on Merseyside, where over recent years a 500-run has not been so much out of the ordinary.

Then there's Reeney. It's 17 years ago since a dressingroom peg at Elland Road was first given his name tag. But now he has joined Jackie Charlton, Billy Bremner and Norman Hunter in a select Leeds "700" club.

Ball's inclusion may raise some folk's eyebrows, yet it is a fact that he has been around in the top professional circuits for almost fifteen seasons, and is almost as pleasing to watch in this year of grace as on his debut day for Blackpool.

He also honoured the Everton and Arsenal shirts for many controversial winters before moving farther south to Southampton's Dell, and in the process has gradually neared the 600 mark.

Stepney, onetime Millwall and Chelsea goalkeeping favourite, has just collected a very nice five-figure benefit which shows Manchester United's appreciation of 600-plus appearances.

Benefits, or whatever the Inland Revenue may call them, are sizeable affairs in the 70's. Certainly considerably larger than at one period when five years loyalty produced a cheque for only £650, a net take home packet of a mere £400.

Even in the last decade, when I organised a very successful game for Bert Trautmann, the German ace felt lucky to pocket almost £10,000 after fifteen years in the top flight, and a final bow before 45,000.

Dwelling a little longer on the cash side and the rewards available to the stayers, I'm told that during the last seven years nearly £160,000 has been shared between just six lucky fellers.

All Internationals and First Division regulars, their golden handshakes ranged down from £41,000 to £30,000. Now we're going forward to the day when someone expresses thanks for a goodbye cheque for £50,000. I wonder who it will go to?

Left to right: Ahmet Ertegun (New York Cosmos President), Keith Eddy, Yasin (holding the ball), Giorgio Chinaglia, Werner Roth and Tunc Erim, an ex-Turkish international basketball player now coaching in the USA.

# NASL—APRIL START

**ON Friday, April 8, the North American Soccer League will open the eleventh season of major league coast to coast professional soccer across North America with the Portland Timbers playing in Vancouver and the Seattle Sounders travelling across the Pacific to play Team Hawaii in Honolulu.**

At this time ten years ago two leagues were gearing up for an attempt to sell the game to the American public for the first time on a national scale. The United Soccer Association sanctioned by the governing bodies in both the U.S. and Canada was to operate with foreign teams representing each of its franchises, while the National Professional Soccer League, non sanctioned, was to operate with its own teams recruited from all over the world.

To complicate matters even more there was a third professional league operating, the American Soccer League, confined then to the eastern seaboard but now a coast to coast operation itself. The American Soccer League had been formed on May 7, 1921 and through thick and thin had managed to survive although in the years prior to 1967 had not managed to present a high profile.

Of the 22 teams that started operating in 1967 (12 in the United Soccer Association and 10 in the National Professional Soccer League) only two remain to join 16 others for the start of the 1977 season. These two teams are the St. Louis Stars and the Dallas Tornado. They survived the merger of the two leagues late in 1967 when the North American Soccer Leugue was formed and also the near collapse of the league at the end of the 1968 season when only five of the 17 teams operating in that league remained afloat to play in the low key 1969 season. The other 12 drowned in a sea of red ink.

Today the NASL considers the 1967 season part of its history and so 1977 marks the beginning of the second decade, and whereas the first decade began with predictions of overnight success only to quickly fade into despair, the second decade begins with a cautious optimism, born of a steady growth pattern that began five years ago and in the last two years in particular has produced a level of interest in the game never before achieved.

This year's 18-team league is two short of the 20 teams that operated last year, The Boston Minutemen and the Philadelphia Atoms both having fallen by the wayside, partly as a result of low attendances and partly because of internal organisational problems. The Atoms were formed in 1973 and won the championship in the same year, while the Minutemen have only been in operation since 1974. It was hoped that the Atoms could be relocated in San Antonio but the move fell through at the last minute.

In addition to the loss of two teams, three other teams have shifted to what they hope are more profitable locations. The San Diego team after just one year in southern California have moved to Las Vegas, while San Antonio lasted two years in Texas before moving out across the ocean to Hawaii. Over on the other coast the Miami Toros (who began life as the Miami Gatos in 1972) who reached the final in 1974, have moved up the coast to Fort Lauderdale.

**As usual these changes have brought about divisional realignments with the St. Louis Stars moving from the Western to the Northern Division to replace Boston, while the loss of two teams has resulted in the Eastern and Western Divisions operating with four teams instead of five.**

The Northern Division will now consist of the Chicago Sting, Toronto Metros-Croatia, St. Louis Stars, Rochester Lancers and Connecticut Bicentennials (last year known as the Hartford Bicentennials), while the Eastern Division comprises the New York Cosmos (now wishing to be known simply as the "Cosmos"), Fort Lauderdale Strikers, Tampa Bay Rowdies and Washington Diplomats.

The Southern Division remains intact except that two teams have changed their location, thus the league will consist of Dallas Tornado, Team Hawaii, Las Vegas Quicksilver, Los Angeles Aztecs and San Jose Earthquakes, while the Western Division includes Minnesota Kicks, Portland Timbers, Seattle Sounders and the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Throughout the close season the coaches of the NASL clubs have been searching the world looking for new talent to supplement last year's rosters, and although only a few signings have been announced to date a steady stream of players will be making their way across the Atlantic at the beginning of April.

One club making an early start are the New York Cosmos who will play this year at the new Giants Stadium in New Jersey rather than at Yankee Stadium in New York city. Coach Gordon Bradley opened training on February 16 with basically the same team as last year but strengthened in some areas.

Among the new signings are goalkeeper Yasin Erol from Galatasaray in Turkey along with two players from Yugoslavia, Vitomir Dimitrijevic, a midfielder from Olimpija of Ljubljana, and forward Jadranko Topic, signed from Velez Mostar. In addition Bradley hopes to have full back Bruce Twamley fit. Twamley obtained in a trade with the Vancouver Whitecaps last season is a Canadian international who has spent most of his professional career with Ipswich Town. Shortly after being traded by the Cosmos last year he broke his leg in practice and has yet to play for the club.

This will be Pele's last year with the Cosmos and no doubt they will be hoping to mark the occasion by winning the championship for the first time since 1972.

## News from North America by Colin Jose

# INTERNATIONAL MICROSCOPE

# Ploesti started it all

**FOOTBALL in Rumania first began in the oil fields around Ploesti with 'United' Ploesti the 1912 champions and Prahova Ploesti following them two years later. Teams in Bucharest were also in the field early, but being a very backward and largely agricultural country before the Second World War, the standard of play never really matched that in Western countries.**

The enthusiasm was there all right, as proven by the insistence of their King in 1930 that Rumania should send her team to Uruguay for the first World Cup, backed up by an Act of Parliament that the players should not lose any salary during the long journey out to Montevideo by boat, and that their jobs should be held open for them. In those far off days of the thirties when industrial unemployment was rife, this is indicative of the appeal of soccer in the country.

At their own level, that is competing against neighbouring Balkan countries the Rumanian national team was regularly in the field and as indicated by their results totals against Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria and Greece: played 55 won 32 drawn 13 and lost only 10, they have generally been top dogs in the Balkans.

Yet Rumania must be one of the few countries to have lost the only game they ever played against Estonia (2-1) and perhaps even more surprisingly they have a positive record against Yugoslavia, the team they have played most often. Remarkable because even in the thirties the Yugoslavs were always a country able to produce good players just as they are today no matter how many they export.

Perhaps the results can be explained to some extent by Yugoslavia fielding weaker or experimental teams against Rumania, but even in recent years the Rumanians have continued to do well against Yugoslavia.

The peak achievement of the Rumanians so far was perhaps their qualification for the final stages of the 1970 World Cup with a side in which Florea Dumitrache proved himself to be a very determined and by no means unskilled centre-forward.

But off the field, Dumitrache was not as amenable to discipline as he should have been and long before his time dropped into relative obscurity before he could strike up an effective goalscoring partnership with the current hero, Dudu Georgescu from Dumitrache's old club, Dynamo Bucharest.

Amongst the Rumanians more recent achievements, a 0-0 draw with Holland in 1974 ranks high, and significantly in two friendly matches with Czechoslovakia in 1976 they drew 1-1 at home and lost by only 2-3 in Prague, while the Czechs were in the process of winning the European championship. In the last five years the Rumanians have given as good as they have got against very mixed opposition. They have played some of the best sides in Europe and also both Brazil and Argentina; drawn 1-1 at home and away with Scotland. In this particular period their figures read:

| P | W | D | L | F | A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | 9 | 18 | 10 | 61 | 48 |

The goals tally is largely accounted for by two good wins over Finland by 9-0 . . . in 1973, and before the Finns began a marked improvement of their own — and a 6-1 success over Denmark who fielded their Olympic Games team against Rumania in the European championship qualifying round.

But overall the Rumanians appear somehow to draw the right balance between defence and attack. In 1975 for example they played 11 matches and drew no fewer than nine of them with their only defeat being 2-1 away to Argentina. But when they tried to play a more open game in 1976 they lost three of their five games, largely because they are unable to find another goalscorer to play with Georgescu, allied to the fact that their top scorer is not at his best against the tight-marking professionals he meets at top level.

Under Stefan Kovacs in 1976 there were indications that at last Rumania is on the right road; Kovacs of course having been released by the Rumanian FA to serve an apprenticeship in the West, first as manager of Ajax and later in charge of the French national team.

Under Kovacs, they came out of their defensive shell of 1975, lost 2-4 away to Italy which now looks like a good result, drew and lost narrowly to Czechoslovakia and shared the honours with neighbours Bulgaria.

The two games with Bulgaria were in fact the final of the Balkan Cup which they looked very much like winning. Playing the first leg away in Sofia they lost 0-1 but at home at the 23rd August Stadium they were winning 3-1 when the Bulgarians snatched a late goal to lose by only 3-2, draw 3-3 overall and take the trophy on away goals which like penalty kicks is a modern innovation that has helped take sport out of the game and put in the business aspect.

The recent earthquake is hardly likely to help the development of anything Rumanian, a national tragedy quite apart from humanitarian considerations, for after making so much progress in many fields it is sure to set the country back. But in football, if the Army team Steaua can match Dynamo Bucharest as they once did for long spells in the 1950s as CCA, they will have between them the backbone of a new Rumanian national team that could do even better than in 1969-70.

| | P | W | D | L | Goals F | Goals A |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albania | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 5 |
| Algeria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Argentina | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Austria | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Belgium | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Brazil | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Bulgaria | 21 | 13 | 3 | 5 | 55 | 35 |
| Cameroun | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Congo (Brazzaville) | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Croatia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Cuba | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Czechoslovakia | 23 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 27 | 52 |
| Cyprus | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1 |
| Denmark | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Egypt (U.A.R.) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 5 |
| England | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Estonia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ethiopia | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 |
| Finland | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 1 |
| France | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 7 |
| Germany, East | 9 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 16 |
| Germany, West | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 30 |
| Greece | 13 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 35 | 14 |
| Holland | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 |
| Hungary | 13 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 43 |
| Italy | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 14 |
| Israel | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 7 |
| Latvia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Lithuania | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Morocco | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Norway | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Peru | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Poland | 19 | 8 | 10 | 1 | 37 | 31 |
| Portugal | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| Scotland | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Slovakia | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| Spain | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 10 |
| Sweden | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 15 |
| Switzerland | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| Turkey | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 24 | 13 |
| Uruguay | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| U.S.S.R. | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Wales | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Yugoslavia | 31 | 14 | 5 | 12 | 46 | 49 |
| Totals | 252 | 97 | 65 | 90 | 441 | 440 |

# NOT SO SIMPL
# MONCHENGLA

**IN THE West German Bundesliga the predictions that Borussia Mönchengladbach will retain their title have become less frequent in recent weeks. The absence through injury of internationals Vogts, Danner and Heynckes had gradually affected their performances. Vogts returned in February, Danner was just about ready, but Heynckes the club's top scorer was still unfit and required further treatment, following the removal of a cartilage.**

This was bad news for Gladbach, especially in view of the tough European Cup quarter-final ties against FC Bruges, for after all, Heynckes had scored a total of 43 goals in European competitions and was sorely missed.

Close on the revelation that their brilliant defender Rainer Bonhof wants to leave for Spain, came the disclosure that Borussia's Danish star forward Allan Simonsen is also casting envious eyes in the direction of his compatriot Henning Jensen who left the club last summer to join Real Madrid. The departure of two more top class players would be a serious blow to the German champions.

As I write, their leadership is being challenged by Eintracht Brunswick who beat Bayern Munich 1-0 and are developing into major title contenders. Brunswick have strengthened their squad after the transfer deadline in December, by the acquisition of Swedish international full back Hasse Borg from SK Oerebro for £60,000, but of course he won't be eligible to play in the *Bundesliga* until July 1. . . .

Bayern Munich's coach, the diminutive Dettmar Cramer, was voted by the soccer public the most popular manager in the country and this should strengthen his position within the club where the real power is wielded by the president Wilhelm Neudecker and the Technical Director Robert Schwan. But Cramer too, was up against a spate of injuries to key men.

It is clear that Bayern without Gerd Müller (recovering from a spinal operation) are like a sword without a point. This and other injury problems have seriously hampered their bid for the title.

As I already reported they have been using their amateurs to plug the gaps in their ranks. Bayern have also missed Müller on the European front. This fabulous striker with 67 goals to his credit in all international competitions, is simply indispensable!

Another dilemma is posed by the fact that of the four foreigners on their books (Andersson and Torstensson of Sweden, Seneca of Denmark and Oenal from Turkey), they are only allowed to use two at any time in a *Bundesliga* match.

FC Cologne found out the hard way that it doesn't pay to ignore, or forget this rule. They have been hauled before a disciplinary commission of the DFB (FA) for exceeding the permitted number of foreign imports.

In the match v. Eintracht Frankfurt Cologne's manager Hennes Weisweiler sent on as a substitute the Belgian Van Gool. He didn't realise apparently that with goalkeeper Topalovic (Yugoslavia) and forward Larsen (Denmark) he had already fielded two foreign mercenaries!

In a previous case Werder Bremen were fined £500 after using three foreigners, Roentved, Aslund and Sunday, against Rot-weiss Essen in the 1975/76 season.

**Cologne had other worries, like the continued feud between Weisweiler and the famous club captain Wolfgang Overath. Although both stated in separate interviews that they will bury the hatchet and work amicably till**

51 Sabener Strasse, Munich . . . the headquarters of Bayern Munich.

## West German newslet

# Cup c

**IN THE quarter-finals of the DFB Cup there was one sensation and one surprise. The FC Bayer Uerdingen, relegated last year from the 1. Bundesliga and now in the 2. Bundesliga-North, eliminated fancied Eintracht Frankfurt. And how! Six minutes from the end Frankfurt seemingly cruised on a 3-1 lead, when two quick goals, the last in injury time, levelled the scores. Then Bayer stormed on and sensationally his three more to triumph 6-3 in extra time!**

**Surprising, but not quite so much, in view of the circumstances, was Bayern Munich's demise in Berlin. The European champions, who missed the injured Gerd Müller, Dürnberger, Schwarzenbeck and Hoeness, fell to Hertha also after extra**

# E FOR
# DBACH

the end of the season, their relationship has remained strained, though Overath has returned to the side.

It is virtually certain that Overath, now 33 years old, holder of 81 caps and a veteran of three World Cup campaigns will retire from active football soon.

One of his best known colleagues at the club and in the national team, Wolfgang Weber, has suffered a terrible set back when doctors discovered that he had a serious heart beat disorder. This 32-year-old still remembered for scoring that dramatic equaliser for West Germany just fifteen seconds(!) from the end of normal time in the World Cup Final at Wembley in 1966 against England, may also have to call it a day.

The whole country was buzzing for weeks following the incredible "gimmick" staged by the general manager of Hamburger SV Dr. Peter Krohn. In order to provide atmosphere in the huge Volksparkstadion (capacity 61,000) for a match against lowly Rotweiss Essen, the enterprising Krohn issued 30,000 (!) free tickets to various organisations and specifically to be distributed among old age pensioners, school boys, unemployed, soldiers, policemen and even doctors!

The result was a crowd of 48,000 which was enthralled by a eight-goal fiesta — Hamburg winning 5-3. It is, however, unlikely that other clubs will follow suit for after all, if this idea catches on who will want to pay admission?

It was in fact Dr. Krohn who launched a "super-Cup" in Germany — a match between his team as cup holders and champions Borussia Mönchengladbach. A crowd of 30,000 paid £25,000 to witness this novel affair in Hamburg, but the visitors won by 3-2. . . .

Wolfgang Overath of FC Cologne.

ty ARTHUR ROTMIL

# emise for Bayern

time by 2-4. The crowd of 42,345 was Hertha's best for some weeks.

Rather expected was the 2-1 away win of Rotweiss Essen on the ground of 2. Division Sp. Vgg. Bayreuth. In the semi-finals, to be staged on April 9, Bayer Uerdingen will meet Hertha, whilst Rotweiss Essen oppose Cologne. The latter produced the most predictable result with their 4-2 victory over 1. FC Nurnberg (2. Bundesliga-South). The hero of Cologne was international centre forward Dieter Müller, who scored a hat-trick.

The performance earned him a call up to the national side for the friendly against France in Paris. With this fixture the Germans launched a programme of preparations for next year's defence of their world title.

In front of a capacity crowd of 48,000 who paid £125,000 at the Parc des Princes, they lost 0-1. National manager Helmut Schon included in his original selection of 22 players four newcomers, but injury reduced this contingent and eventually only centre back Peter Nogly (Hamburger SV) made his debut at the age of 30!

The most striking feature was the realisation that the "Big Two", Bayern Munich and Borussia Mg., no longer dominate the national side, for the team was composed of players from six clubs, and even seven, is you include the substitue.

The Germans played in a flexible 4-3-3 formation, but with strict man-for-man marking, which is now being dismissed as old fashioned by most European experts, but apparently is favoured by England's chief Don Revie!

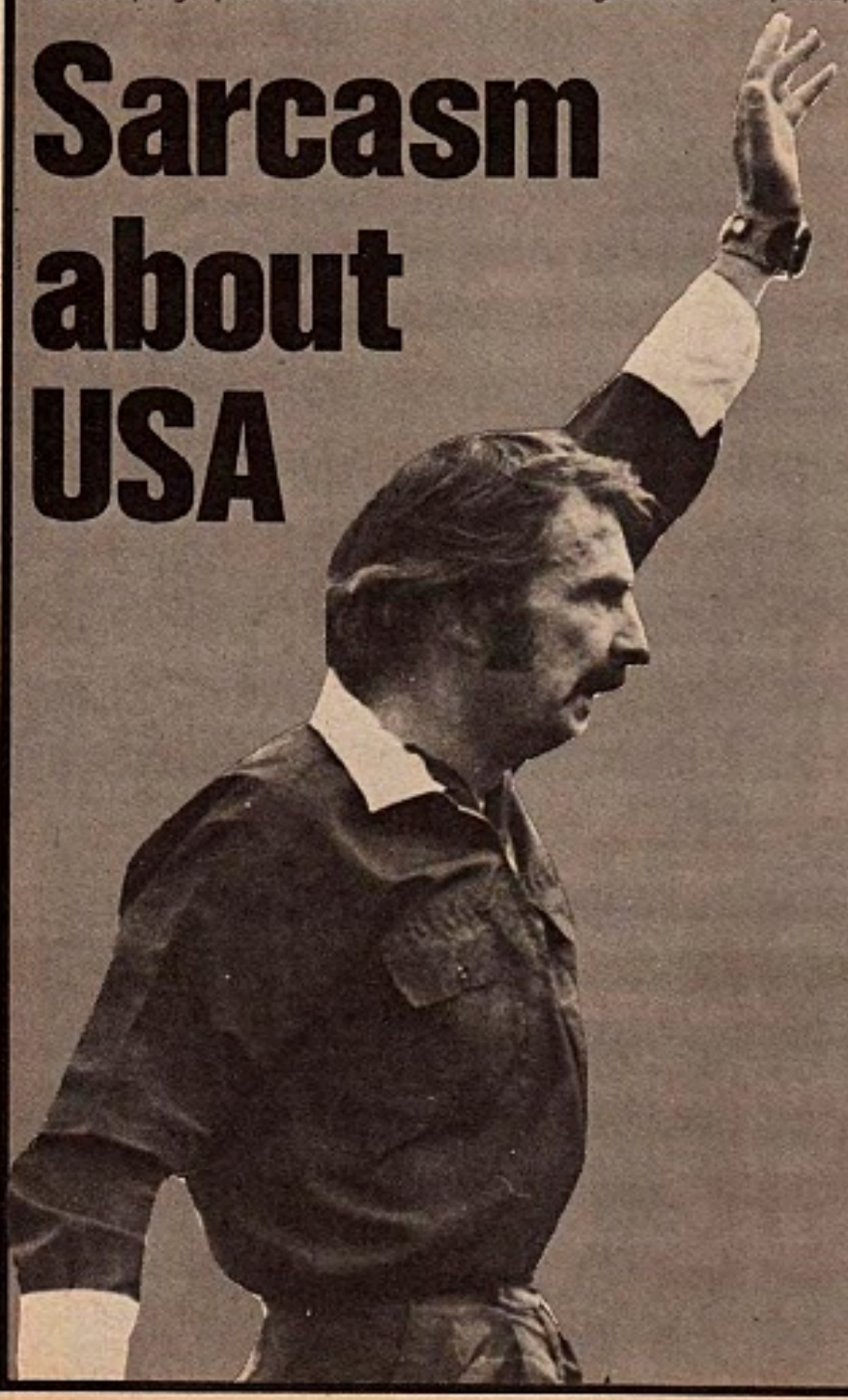
After an evenly balanced first half in which both sides missed chances, the French youngsters got the upper hand and the goal by Rouyer after 53 minutes proved enough to give them a prestige win over the world champions.

Of course, French football has improved recently, as exemplified by the success of St. Etienne — last year's European Cup finalists. Four of their side played for France at the start, whilst a fifth came in at half time.

# OPEN LETTER

# from Gordon Hill ... to Brian

# Sarcasm about USA



IN YOUR case, distance certainly does not make the heart grow fonder! In common with other football writers attempting to cover the American scene, from 3,000 miles and another world away, you attempt to cover up your lack of real awareness with sarcasm, facetiousness and occasional downright rudeness.

I should know by now how you delight in destructive criticism. As a teacher who has spent all of his active life attempting to promote understanding of so many things, especially football, I have always found it difficult to grasp why such a gifted writer should comment in such a negative vein rather than using your obvious talents to help the world better comprehend this great game.

On so many occasions I have agreed with you — your empassioned plea for creative football and players of flair and individuality. I have always echoed — and then I despair of remedy when all we get is your spiteful clouting of the opposition.

This time, however, you go too far. Perhaps you offer proof too, of something I have often suspected, that so much of your carping is based on inadequate experience and research. Certainly your hurtful report on American soccer is factually inaccurate and very exaggerated.

In 1975, I was 47 and had just completed a happy and extremely successful refereeing career. My teaching was being destroyed slowly but very surely, by creeping conservatism and political interference. It seemed an ideal time to make the break and try something new.

I accepted a position in teacher-training in the U.S.A. It was purely coincidental and surely fortuitous when Phil Woosnam, Commissioner of the North American Soccer League, invited me to continue my whistle-blowing in the States. I jumped at this opportunity to continue refereeing: I honestly felt I had been at my best those past three or four years in England and I wanted to show it must be wrong to force a referee to retire at any arbitrary age.

During two seasons, travelling thousands of miles across this fantastically variable country, I began to find out for myself what American soccer was about. I finished this second refereeing career as I closed my first with the League Cup Final. Only this time Soccerbowl '76 was indoors in one of the most striking arenas in the world.

## Athletes

In the Seattle Kingdome, seating 60,000 spectators in air-conditioned comfort, Eusebio and his Toronto Metros destroyed Freddie Goodwin's almost all English Minnesota Kicks. Before you chirp in with one of your favourite "I told you so's" — may I ask you to examine anything American — its orchestras, its artists, its athletes, its shop assistants and I think you will find they originate from all corners of the world. Americans are very proud of their cosmopolitan heritage. And were not the British once equally proud to export their game to these same foreign outposts. These two seasons were times of mixed emotion. I had my lows. Some of the grounds are pitiful, small, bumpy, with poor changing rooms — and I don't think I will ever accept astroturf as a sympathetic surface for good soccer. Some of the crowds are lacking in awareness and sometimes ethnic preoccupation is annoying. Some of the play is poor and often drops to English Third and Fourth division levels. But I also enjoyed many highs.

In the famed New York's Yankee Stadium, haunted by all of America's top athletic ghosts, I refereed a game that would stand comparison with anything the world could offer. Before 40,000 fans I almost stood back and watched the New York Cosmos snatch back a 5-4 victory after an early Tampa Bay Rowdies goal blitz from Rodney Marsh, Clyde Best, Stuart Scullion and Derek Smethurst, putting them three goals in front.

# an Glanville

The Cosmos — almost written off by you as a Warner Communications plaything — of course were led by Pele — he said afterwards it was his best game ever in the U.S.A. — and backed by Georgio Chinaglia, Terry Garbett and Keith Eddy. However, in the same game quietly working alongside, observing and learning, were a half-dozen American youngsters, perhaps the basis of this country's future soccer growth.

During this great game, Pele only fractionally over-shadowed Tampa Bay Rowdies — and Fulham's — star Rodney Marsh. I, just for one of thousands of fans in this country, shall always be grateful to American soccer for giving him another chance to play. For, I believe Rodney is more than just a very good player, he is a hero figure for those almost countless youngsters here, who are eagerly seeking stars on whom to mould their future playing style.

## Satisfied

This is so important, for American soccer in its formative years is looking to players of imagination, flair and individuality, as this is the play they wish to watch and emulate. Certainly they would be far from satisfied with the drab greyness of English League football that we are witnessing now on our T.V.

Yes, Brian, American soccer is highs and lows and I am beginning to see most of the lows as jumping-off points rather than merely accepting them as examples of poverty or incompetence. It is interesting to note that Los Angeles, Hartford and New York are all moving upwards from poor grounds, into stadia that put England's antiquated grounds to shame. This coming season all eighteen N.A.S.L. clubs will play on grounds offering space and comfort of world-class standards.

## Wretched

It is only two seasons ago, I couldn't find a taxi-driver who knew where New York Cosmos played . . . and when I finally reached the wretched hole called Downing Stadium, I wished I had never bothered. Some of the pre-match ballyhoo whipped-up by almost-dressed beautiful young ladies I find a bit much — but I put that down to my advancing years. In any case it must be better than canned muzak creaking from ancient loudspeakers, competing with the screamed obscenities of deprived youth.

I tended to jump on my high-horse when T.V. producers asked me to slow down goal-kicks in order to fit in their commercial breaks. But even then casual acquaintance with the American sports scene compels you to realise just how dependent it all is on television coverage.

THE NASL American season is now in full career, and one wishes it well. One is also delighted to see SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, the leading sports weekly in the United States, with a circulation above two million, giving the game such generous coverage. Yet the sad lack of authority in its pieces — when they are not written by such as my colleague, Paul Gardner — is an indication of how light mindedly the sport is taken still in the States.

It is almost inconceivable that a major magazine in America, where the researcher rules, where a thousand tiny quibbles are braised by checkers, editors and verifiers, that such awful solecisms could appear as those in a recent article by J. D. Reed, in those glossy columns.

Presenting the NASL season with more enthusiasm than accuracy, Mr. Reed twice spelt Eusebio's august name EUSABIO. He called Derek Smethurst, a South African, Clyde Best, a black Bermudian, and Stewart Scullion, a Scot, "English". He spelt the name of John Kowalik, a Pole who has been in and out of U.S. soccer for the last decade, KOWOLIK.

Mark Lindsay of the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

If mighty SPORTS ILLUSTRATED can do no better than this, what can be hoped for at a lower level?

B.G.

Without T.V. spots, no sport survives so I reckon a little compromise now and again is a small price to pay to ensure maximum exposure for my sport. I mean just think of the rubbish we had to put up with in England just for a few minutes of delayed coverage on Saturday nights.

In New York now, on any weekend you have three games to watch, English League, a top game from Germany and a local game. Herdaker would bust a gut at such exposure!

But it is only since I joined the Tampa Bay Rowdies six months ago, that I began to get real insight into American soccer. The most successful team in the States, an average gate of 20,000 . . . but that is not really the point. When the Rowdies arrived in this delightful seaside Florida town, soccer was almost non-existent. Today, as a result of thousands of hours of dedicated coaching, visiting schools and administrative leadership from the Rowdies' staff, there are well over 6,000 kids playing our game.

Every day we visit schools and have our players working alongside P.E. teachers, evenings and weekend we are lecturing, demonstrating and coaching all over the area. And not just for publicity. We believe we have a responsibility to our community, to share our love, our talents with our neighbours. Recently we took over a Middle School for a whole week. Players, coaches, and front office staff were responsible for the total curriculum and we examined everything from 'metrics in soccer' through 'soccer across the world' to a personal analysis of 'emotional stress in winning and losing'.

The whole Rowdies team and staff in the school all week — I fancy English kids would be satisfied with a mere glimpse of one player in their schools.

Soccer is fun here . . . every inch of grass is packed every minute of weekend with kids kicking balls. At our games the majority of our fans are families — mum and dad and the kids going down to the game together. At the ground they sit in comfort and are entertained — their all-in price of six pounds compares well both with England and the thirty pounds they would pay for an "American grid football" game.

Shortly we play Zenit-Leningrad, both indoors and outdoors and the town is wild with enthusiasm.

My position as Director of Youth and Community Development is as rewarding as any I have had, I am working alongside people who are passionately eager to learn more about this game, they and their children, are beginning to love.

You talk about "prostituting a game to an uninstructed ignorant public." I can only wonder where the real ignorance lies, for I am absolutely sure you haven't a glimmer of what is really going on in soccer in the U.S. A continuation of your unfounded criticism would be insulting — Please spend a week with us here in Tampa, Florida, to make sure you avoid that charge.

P.S. You'll be pleased to hear I have just persuaded our owners not to paint the goalposts in yellow and green stripes. We must stop these yanks from mucking about with our game any more.

Brian Glanville writes: I was twice in New York and Los Angeles last summer, and receive both magazines and regular personal reports from the U.S.A. Mr Hill deals in generalisation. He has refuted me on no specific point.

## News from Holland by Henri van der Steen

# AJAX STILL LEAD

**AJAX, the club that once excited Europe with brilliant attack, look like being Dutch champions. They deserve it but they have spent the last eight months boring the Netherlands with their negative but successful approach.**

Yugoslavian manager Ivic has taken his team to a four point lead at the top of the table, which now seems too much for a struggling Feyenoord, who lost points recently to the worst club in our First Division.

Ajax have had fierce criticism from press and public as Ivic has played his team in a way that he made Hadjuk Split similarly successful in Yugoslavia. A tight defence, runners and workers in midfield and a couple of fast runners in attack — that's the Ivic formula that worked well at Split and now in Amsterdam.

Ivic introduced a system of two sweepers into the Dutch football. Sweeper probably isn't the best word. I prefer the German title of 'ausputzer' as a better title.

With Krol, regarded here as the best defender in Europe converted from left-back to sweeper he now has Johnny Dushaba (now in the national squad) or Barry Hulshoff as a partner.

Having five defenders meant there was only room for two strikers — Ruud Geels and Tchou La Ling, the oriental who got his place in the side after his superb display against United in Manchester. Geels, however, is the man that Ivic can thank most, the former Feyenoord striker who also scored freely in the Belgian League for Brugge.

Geels, in this third year with Ajax, is the cornerstone of the championship bid. In his first season he scored 30 goals from 34 games, last season he scored 29 from 34 and this year he seems set to improve on that with 26 goals from 25 games.

There can be no question of Ivic's ability as a coach but for all his efforts would come to nothing without a man like Geels.

Says Ivic in his best English: "Why the hell they don't stop talking about us playing defensive football. Don't you see that we have five or six men up front, that Krol, Suurbier and Hulshof can be seen in the opposition penalty box?"

Yes, I have seen Krol and Suurbier and others penetrating into the box but they always leave five men behind. Midfield players like Zuidema, Schoenaker, Notten, Erkens and Lerby will stay behind if their defenders make a break.

Ivic is probably grateful he is in Amsterdam and not in Rotterdam with Feyenoord, where coach Boskov was obliged to use a player he actually wanted to transfer.

Jan Verheyen, bought for a considerable sum in the face of opposition by PSV, from Second Division PEC Zwolle last year, should have been part of the package that took Gerhard van der Lem to Feyenoord from Roda JC a few weeks ago. The clubs agreed, van der Lem was keen, but Verheyen said he was perfectly happy in Amsterdam. Boskov and manager Guus Brox were angered and told the press that there would be no room for the young and gifted player in the first team and that they were very disappointed.

Now the two Jansens are injured and Boskov has had to put Verheyen in the team. And the big sensation was that Verheyen scored the equaliser for Feeyenoord, some minutes from full-time . . . versus Roda.

After an absence of over a year, Mladen Ramljak is back in Feyenoord's first team. The professional Yugoslavian should help things in the Rotterdam revival. But with midfield man Wim Jansen and scorer Nico Jansen out of action Boskov has less reserves to call on than his counterpart at Ajax.

Boskov has often begged for new players, but the once mighty Feyenoord had to declare a £200,000 deficit last season. Instead of 45,000 crowds, the average these days is a meagre 15-18,000.

PSV have recovered well, though new Swedish star Torbjorn Nilsson hasn't shown too much. Rolf Edstroem, too, has lacked form and he is talking with foreign clubs about his future.

No less than 12 Eindhoven contracts end in July which leaves team manager Ben van Gelder a difficult and challenging time ahead. But Eindhoven are a well organised club and this summer a fourth new stand is to be opened to give them one of the most modern stadiums in Europe. With undercover accommodation for 28,000 the ground really looks after the fans with heating in the stands!

Johan Cruyff takes on the Belgian defence in a World Cup qualifying round match in Antwerp. Picture by Peter Robinson.

# Magyars thrashed

## News from Hungary by Leslie Vernon

**ARGENTINIAN football has nothing to cry about just at present, judging by the easy victory over Hungary. The intrepid Magyar travellers arrived at Buenos Aires at the end of their usual gruelling tour of the most obscure parts of Central and South America.**

Bertoni scored a hat-trick in the first-half for the home team, and another goal by Luque made it 4-0 before sermon-time. Team manager Baroti did his best in persuading the players that they were not facing an unbeatable foe, and Weimper got a consolation goal — but not before Luque added one more to complete a 5-1 win for the World Cup hosts.

Previously, the Hungarians played seven games against opposition of such varying strength, that it is sufficient to say that of the eight matches played, they won three, drew two and lost three.

Fifty-fifty, a form good enough to finish half-way in a League, as Don Revie might say . . . But victories against teams in Honduras and Guatemala, who field part-time sombrero salesmen and plantation workers, hardly make-up for the results in the three really important official full-international games.

These were the ones against Argentina and the 3-2 defeat at Lima, where the Peru scorers were Velasquez, Quirose and Sotil, while Kereki and Torocsik got the Hungarian goals. The third was played in Mexico, where goals by Solis and Torocsik resulted in a commendable 1-1 draw. (Remember, last year, Hungary lost there 4-1!)

And talking about last year, after the much-criticized trip, the national team remained unbeaten for the rest of '76. That's why it is premature to draw any conclusions from this lastest fiasco — the proof will be in the World Cup qualifying "pudding".

Indeed, on his return, Lajos Baroti was reasonably satisfied: "Our original plans worked to perfection. We were able to train and play under ideal conditions. We have travelled about 50,000 kms., and have boarded 60 different planes, moving from Costa Rica to Argentina. Our performances have varied — we played very well in Peru and Mexico, but hit a low spot in Argentina.

Individually, Pintar was the best player on tour, but I was also satisfied with Kerekes, Nagy, Toth, Varadi and Zombori. Both Ebedli and Torocsik are players of immense flair and potential, but they lacked consistency and application. (Now, where did I hear that before?) The party was slightly disturbed by the exaggerated (?) security arrangements in Buenos Aires.

They had a police escort at all times, armed guards were posted outside hotel rooms, and the dressing room was surrounded by guard dogs and policemen brandishing machine guns and walkie-talkies. (According to the Hungarians, the latter sounded more menacing than the dogs) So, this is the shape of things to come in the Gaucho World Cup — football will be played under siege conditions.

Vive la Sport!

# SHOP WINDOW

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**ANDRZEJ WLODARCZYK,** a 23-year-old from Poland would like to exchange soccer badges, pennants and books, etc. with soccer fans from either England, Germany, Scotland or Wales. If interested please write to: Andrzej Wlodarczyk, ul.M. Fornalskiej 8/4, 46-200 Kluczbork, POLAND.

**MAG ELEMER** from Hungary would like to exchange soccer flags and pennants etc, with fans from:— England, Scotland, France, BRD, Denmark, Turkey, Ireland, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Portugal, USA, Australia, Austria, Holland, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, Colombia, etc., etc. Mag Elemer, H-7630 PECS, Felszabadulas, Ut 107, Hungary.

**JOSEF KRCEK** from Czechoslovakia who collects metal soccer badges wishes to contact others who collect them for exchanging or receiving new additions. Josef Krcek, 6 ul. 163, 273 07 Vinarice u Kladna, Czechoslovakia.

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**JOZEF PLANK,** an ardent soccer fan from Czechoslovakia would like to hear from fans all over the world about exchanging football badges, flags, programmes, pennants and other items. Please write to him at:— Jozef Plank, Trnava, Modranka 30, Czechoslovakia.

**WANTED — 1964/65,** 1965-66 and 1966-67 additions of either Racing & Football Outlook Annual, Playfair Football Annual or News of the World Football Annual, will pay good prices. 377 London Rd, West End, Stoke-on Trent, Staffs. ST4 5AW

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**I WOULD LIKE** to exchange pennants, programmes etc with fans of all ages from France, Germany, Holland, Italy and Argentina, all letters will be replied. Barry Bennell 17 William Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, England.

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**WALLY HIPPE** from New South Wales, Australia is missing the following issues of World Soccer:— all 1972 — 1974 incl. Feb. — June 1975 and August and October 1975. If any one could help him please write to Wally Hippe at 374 Northcliffe Drive, Lake Heights, N.S.W. 2502, Australia.

**WANTED:** Foreign football magazines, of 1975 and 1976, good prices paid. Require, "France Football", "Kicker", "Voetbal International", "Guerin Sportive", etc. Contact Barry Smith, 87 Harcourt Ave., Manor Pk., London, E12 6DB. 01-478 0295.

**WANTED** anything to do with Barcelona (pictures, reports, books etc) especially anything on Johan Neeskens. I am 15 years old and I am very interested in Spanish football. I would like to correspond with anyone of about the same age from Spain who supports C.F. Barcelona. Also wanted 1976 November issue of World Soccer. Will pay good prices. 29 Bloomfield, Edinburgh Road, Dumfries, Scotland.

**CHESTER STYLE** from the Republic of South Africa would like to correspond with soccer fans with strong interests in England (London), Scotland (Glasgow), European, Latin America and North American football. Chester's other interests are Music, Politics and World Sport. Chester Style, 16 Bullbrand Road, 3600 Samia, Natal, R.S.A.

**THE JUNIOR ORANGE BOWL** International soccer tournament is seeking applicants for its seventh annual event on Dec. 27—29, 1977 in Miami, Fla. Competition will be for boys and girls in seven divisions including under-16, under-14, under-12 and under-10. The event seeks to promote good will and good soccer. For information write to: Wayne Martin, Jr. OB Soccer, Post Office Box 381184, Miami, Florida, USA. 33138.

**WANTED** complete set of "World Soccer" from first issue to Sept. 1976 or a combination of smaller runs. Will pay excellent prices. Contact: Mr B. W. Cranny, 73 Blake Road, Bounds Green, London, N11 2AJ. Tel. No. 889-0836. after 6 pm.

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**I AM INTERESTED** in obtaining soccer programmes involving National teams from all over the world. I have a collection of programmes and enamelled badges, also soccer magazines to exchange. David Holman, 1 Gorton Street, Bolton, Lancs. BL2 1DR

# Five for England — will it be enough?

**FOR ENGLAND, this was hardly a result to exult over; for Italy it was quite pleasing. For me, it was a nothing game writes KEIR RADNEDGE.**

England manager Don Revie was delighted afterwards. He claimed England could have had ten goals but for bad luck and brilliant goalkeeping. He thought it England's best performance for four games.

Yet those were words which astounded Gilbert Legrand, his opposite number, a 44-year-old office worker in the steel industry.

"If I were manager of England and that was my team's best game for four matches I would be ashamed," he said.

So, which point of view do you pick? Take some other opinions. *World Soccer* columnist Brian Glanville, writing in the *Sunday Times*, picked up the Wales and Eire successes against Czechoslovakia and France as evidence that English football is not in such a bad state as England's performance would lead people to believe.

Yet a few days later, Jeff Powell, chief soccer writer of the *Daily Mail*, watched Liverpool-Leeds and Manchester City-Ipswich all in the same day and decided that despite the presence of 26 full internationals, Liverpool were only the best team of a not-very-impressive bunch.

It's all a question of standards. Another example: Many of the journalists, managers and coaches who went to see Holland beat Belgium 2-0 in Antwerp in the World Cup returned to their various countries and clubs describing Holland's victory over England earlier as a mere practice match in comparison.

Yet for the English, that 2-0 defeat provided evidence of wide enough chasm.

So, what was the real value of the Luxembourg victory? For one thing, whether you regard this as a plus or minus, it keeps Don Revie in a job. Yet had the half-time score of 1-0 been maintained to the end it's hard to see how he could have stayed in office.

And whether you admire Revie or oppose him, it's very rarely good policy to change managers in the middle of a World Cup campaign.

You can afford that luxury only if you have a Pele or a Johan Cruyff in your team.

Trevor Francis celebrates his first goal for England.

## CZEC

ALL THOSE who admired the performances of Czechoslovakia in last year's European Championship final stages would have been shocked and dismayed to see them stumble to defeat against Wales at Wrexham. Fortunately for their reputation, only a mere 18,000 turned up to see for themselves just how bad Panenka and Co. were, but millions more saw the highlights (in Scotland and Wales) on TV and the Czech fans at home saw it live and in full.

To say that the Czechs were poor is an understatement. They were diabolical, despite the fact that they fielded seven of their first choice team from Yugoslavia 76.

The Welshmen chased and harried, going for every ball as if their lives depended on it — apart from Leighton James who appeared to be either out of form (which has lasted a long time) or a very moody player indeed. James apart, Wales were full of the fire from their mythical dragon, but with players from the lower Divisions of the English league and Everton's reserve goalkeeper it would have been too much to expect them to do more than give 100% effort and run themselves into the ground. That is precisely what they did.

**After leaving Wembley after the usual Press conferences I got to a television set in time to see most of the recorded highlights. And most of those highlights were deliberately picked from the second half. And why not? After all, that's when the goals came.**

But several people have said to me since: What was the first half like — they hardly showed it on television?

The fact is that the first half was poor and, from the England point of view disturbing. Most of the shooting came from Trevor Cherry in midfield and there was little sign of a coherent plan to break down the massed Luxembourg defence.

This, despite the fact that Revie's England team had played practice matches against the reserves 'doing a Luxembourg'. The fact that two of the games were won by the Luxembourg stand-ins couldn't have helped morale!

True, Dave Watson struck a post and Trevor Francis clipped the bar with a header, but there were no clear chances and there may even have been a doubt about Keegan's 10th minute goal. Did Joe Royle push Jean Mond as he went up to flick the ball down to Watson, who then provided the final pass?

A lot had been made in the Press, who expected a win by eight or nine at least, that Luxembourg's best player was sweeper Louis Pilot, a 37-year-old who was once with Standard Liege.

But even when Pilot was at his best, he was no star in Belgium. He certainly spent more years with Standard as a reserve than he did as a first-teamer. So in terms of soccer experience and achievement, Luxembourg brought little with them, apart from the determination to defend.

"A 4-1 defeat would be a good result for us," said Pilot beforehand. And 5-0 didn't

# ECHS—SO POOR!

## From ERIC BATTY, Wrexham

The result of all this, from the neutral's point of view, was a great disappointment. Those who came to see a football match were once more let down, as no doubt were the few hundred Czech supporters present.

Zdenek Nehoda, Jozef Moder and Antonin Panenka were rarely in the game, and winger Marian Masny, who had been unstoppable when the Czechs beat England 2-1 in Bratislava, was hardly in the game. Substitute striker Miroslav Gajdusek who came on after the break for Moder did no better and that left the Czechs with half a team.

That half included goalkeeper Alexander Vencel standing in for the injured Ivo Viktor and two relatively inexperienced centre backs in Ladislav Jurkemik and Pavol Biros (of Slavia). With Vencel missing a dolly of a goal that went down to a shot-cum-cross from Leighton James who was fully 40 yards out, and also going out and missing when faced with half a dozen high crosses the Czechs were vulnerable. When Vencel let in that gift goal, what little confidence the Czechs started with just drained away, and we were left to watch the shadow of a team stutter to inglorious defeat.

The Czechs were not beaten — they simply lay down and died.

Captain Jaroslav Pollak was one Czech who showed up for his industry and determination but he had to spend too much time back bolstering his ragged defence. Karol Dobias and Jan Pivarnik also struggled manfully while left back Koloman Gogh, the least experienced of the Czech's championship side could not be blamed either. But there can be no excuses for the rest.

Panenka, who has superb skills, barely touched the ball — probably getting no more than a dozen touches of the ball in the whole game. Masny never once contrived to carry the ball past a man and Dai Davies in the Welsh goal can seldom have had an easier game.

Davies had to hold an early long range shot from Dobias that went straight at him, well positioned on his six yard line; he was left groping at air when two curling crosses defeated him but both passed harmlessly wide, and he had once to go down at the feet of Nehonda and take a couple of high corners and cross. Apart from that he was a spectator.

In theory the Czechs were still in the game in the second half, down only to Vencel's gift goal when they succumbed again in unfortunate fashion. John Mahoney broke away down the right, clearly offside, but the linesman boobed and Mahoney went on to cross low for the ball to evade the first pair of combatants and leave Nick Deacy, who has been playing centre back for PSV Eindhoven, converted from his old striking role, with an easy chance. Deacy looked as if he might fall over, but managed to stay on his feet and tap the ball in with the inside of his left foot.

Only Brian Flynn stood out in the Welsh team and fittingly he laid on a superb through ball for Leighton James to run on and score a good goal as Vencel came out. Again the Czechs were at fault for they played with Biros as an alleged libero to cut out just such a ball, but he was nowhere to be seen and that gratefully was it. Gratefully, because the game was a non-event, another match that I wished I had not bothered to go and see.

Kevin Keegan scores England's first goal against Luxembourg.

way his opinion that Italy would qualify from this group.

"England are stronger, more powerful," he told me. "But Italy have the skill and intelligence."

England kept pounding away in the first half without much in the way of tangible immediate results. But that effort did bear fruit in the second half as the Luxembourg part-timers tired quickly.

The extra skill of Paul Mariner, introduced for back injury victim Royle, increased the pressure and a twelve-minute flurry produced goals for Francis (57), Ray Kennedy (65) and Mike Channon (69).

Channon also scored No 5 from the penalty spot ten minutes from time. The kick was awarded for a non-existent offence, but was at least justice for an earlier occasion when Gilbert Dresch brought down Channon in the box in virtually the same place without being penalised.

Poor Dresch was also on his way to becoming just the second international player sent off at Wembley. The first was Antonio Rattin in the 1966 World Cup for talking too much; Dresch was unfortunate too.

# Euro-Review

compiled by Keir Radnedge

**BAYERN'S three-year reign is over — ended in the final seven minutes of their Champions' Cup quarter final second leg in Kiev.**

Before a capacity crowd of 100,000 Bayern, tired and ravaged by injuries, went down 2-0 and 2-1 on aggregate. There was no Müller, no Dürnberger and Jupp Kapellmann and Hans-Georg Schwarzenbeck were barely half fit. Uli Hoeness needs yet another knee operation after the season.

New youngster Peter Gruber played at left back and was under constant pressure, even though the Soviet champions — no longer under the pressure of doubling as national team — were without the midfield promptings of their own injury victim, Viktor Kolotov.

They could have had the match well won early had it not been for some fine saves from Sepp Maier. He even kept out an Oleg Blokhin penalty five minutes before half-time. Yet had Karl-Heinz Rummenigge not shot wide with only Yevgeni Rudakov to beat ten minutes from time, Bayern could have been one step nearer a fourth title.

Instead Leonid Buryak converted a penalty seven minutes from time to level the aggregate, and substitute Slobodan hit the winner four minutes later.

Kiev go into the semi-finals perhaps narrow favourites against **Borussia Moenchengladbach,** who once again had to make up for a wasteful performance at home by winning away — to **Brugge.**

The first half was even with Borussia, despite their collapse in the league, looking the more composed. Jupp Heynckes was recalled, half-fit after a cartilage operation, and provided the main danger in the first half, forcing Birger Jensen to one sharp save.

## Heavy blow

At the other end Rene van der Eycken put a free kick wide, but Brugge suffered a heavy blow when Raoul Lambert, who had not played for three weeks, limped off to be substituted by Dirk Hinderyckx.

As the second half went on, so Borussia grew more confident, and in the last quarter of an hour took over. Jensen made a fine save from Allan Simonsen and then coach Udo Lattek pulled his masterstroke — bringing on Hannes in substitute for Kulik. And it was the substitute who ran the ball in past Jensen after Brugge's offside trap was found wanting eight minutes from time.

It was a late substitute, too, who made all the difference for **Liverpool.** Though Kevin Keegan flighted a centre-cum-cross over Yvan Curkovic after just 100 seconds, **Saint-Etienne** fought back strongly.

Dominique Rocheteau caused severe problems, and Ray Clemence did well to keep out Christian Synaechel's header. Six minutes after half-time Dominique Bathenay beat the England goalkeeper with a superb shot from 25 yards and Liverpool had their backs to the wall.

But Liverpool never give up. Ray Kennedy brought Curkovic to a full-length save, then Jimmy Case lobbed just wide with the unusually jittery Yugoslav goalkeeper caught on the edge of his area.

In the 59th minute, Liverpool gained new hope. John Toschack turned back Ian Callaghan's centre and Kennedy struck the ball past Curkovic. A quarter of an hour later Toshack went off, with his shadow, Alain Merchadier, after a clash of heads.

Saint-Etienne sent on Herve Revelli, a surprising choice when they had defender Guy Modeste on the bench, and Liverpool manager Bob Paisley sent on David Fairclough.

And Fairclough it was, six minutes from the end, who outpaced Christian Lopez to smash in the winner.

Now the Reds face **Zurich,** who won on away goals after losing 3-2 to **Dynamo Dresden** in East Germany. Hartmut Schade put Dresden ahead from the penalty spot, but Franco Cucinotta squared before half-time.

The game was fast and entertaining, and the East Germans just couldn't take a grip as they had expected. Hans-Jürgen Kreische put them back ahead, with two sharp goals but when Peter Risi pulled one back the hosts were in trouble; they needed two goals for a clear win on aggregate — and that was beyond them.

Dresden goalkeeper Jakubowski was at fault with Risi's goal, but he redeemed himself shortly before the end, making a fine save to keep out a back pass from Weber!

**Brugge 0**
**Borussia Mg 1** (Hannes 82)
HT: 0-0. Att: 32,000
*Borussia 3-2 on agg*

**Dynamo Dresden 3** (Schade 17 pen, Kreische 54, 63)
**FC Zurich 2** (Cucinotta 37, Risi 64)
HT: 1-1. Att: 35,000
*Zurich win on away goals: Agg 4-4*

**Dynamo Kiev 2** (Buryak 83 pen, Slobodan 86)
**Bayern Munich 0**
HT: 0-0. Att: 100,000
*Kiev 2-1 on agg*

**Liverpool 3** (Keegan 2, Kennedy 59, Fairclough 84)
**Saint-Etienne 1** (Bathenay 51)
HT: 1-0. Att: 55,043
*Liverpool 3-2 on agg*

### Cup-winners' Cup
### Quarter finals — second legs

**Anderlecht, the holders, go through to the semi-finals — but they didn't have an easy time in their 2-1 defeat at Southampton.**

The English FA Cup-winners made a slow start and were repeatedly caught out by the Belgians' offside trap. Mel Blyth forced a good save from Jan Ruiter after an early raid, and then Ted MacDougall 'scored' after eight minutes, but the effort was rightly refused for offside.

Anderlecht hit back and Peter Wells made an excellent reflex save from Peter Ressel, but Southampton might have had a penalty when Erwin van den Daele brought down Peter Osgood just before the interval. East German referee Rudi Gloeckner gave a free kick outside the box.

Five minutes after the interval Mike Channon shot over badly from six yards. Then Gloeckner refused another penalty appeal after van den Daele tangled with MacDougall. But it was to be third time lucky: In the 61st minute the Anderlecht captain tripped Channon and David Peach hit in the spot kick.

Anderlecht came back and Jim Steele kicked off the goal line from Ressel before MacDougall levelled the aggregate from Peach's cross.

Now Southampton had victory within sight. Jean Dockx was booked for a foul on Steve Williams as Anderlecht fought to hold on, and with a few minutes left their efforts were rewarded as François van der Elst ran away for the vital goal which put Southampton out and Anderlecht through.

The aggregate — 3-2 — was the same with which **Atletico Madrid** put away **Levsky-Spartak.** Argentine skipper Ruben Ayala hit the two goals — both from penalties — which sorted that out before half-time, and **Napoli** also beat **Slask Wroclaw** 2-0 at home.

The easiest task fell to **Hamburg.** A goal ahead against MTK from the first leg, they thrashed them 4-1 at home, Willi Reimann putting them on the way with two goals in the first 20 minutes.

**Atletico Madrid 2** (Ayala 4 pen, 23 pen)
**Levsky-Spartak Sofia 0**
HT: 2-0. Att: 60,000
*Atletico 3-2 on agg*

**SV Hamburg 4** (Reimann 9 and 19, Kaltz 46 pen, Zaczyk 63)
**MTK/VM Budapest 1** (Siklosi 76)
HT: 2-0. Att: 44,000
*Hamburg 5-1 on agg*

**Napoli 2** (Massa 9, Chiarugi 50)
**Slask Wroclaw 0**
HT: 1-0. Att: 75,000
*Napoli 2-0 on agg*

**Southampton 2** (Peach 61 pen, MacDougall 77)
**Anderlecht 1** (van der Elst 83)
HT: 0-0. Att: 24,337
*Anderlecht 3-2 on agg*

### UEFA Cup
### Quarter final — second legs

**A few weeks before, Bilbao surprisingly won a league match in Barcelona thanks to a goal from former Atletico Madrid midfielder, Javier Irureta.**

This time, with CFB starting a goal down, Johan Cruyff was back in the line-up — but once again it was Irureta who stole the limelight.

At half-time Bilbao, expected to go down fairly straightforwardly, were 2-1 up. Irureta hit both goals. Cruyff scored one in the first half for Barcelona and one in the second, but in the end, in front of 80,000 of their own fans, Barcelona were surprisingly out.

The other big surprise was the way **AEK Athens** came back from the dead against **Queen's Park Rangers.** The build-up for the match was all against QPR. First the peculiar allegations that AEK (or was it QPR?) had tried to influence first-leg referee Ole Amundsen; then the decision of the English club to switch hotels fearing the Greek fans would prove too much of a nuisance.

**Piazza of St. Etienne . . . trying to explain away his side's defeat against Liverpool?**

QPR were pushed back from the start and gave away five free kicks in the first six minutes round their penalty box. Phil Parkes made a fine save from a Nikoloudis free kick, but couldn't do anything when AEK scored after 12 minutes — Nikoloudis crossed, Walter Wagner dummied over the ball, and Papaioannou saw a shot blocked before Tom Mavros hit in the rebound.

## Pulsating

After 22 minutes Don Masson cleared off the line from Nikoloudis and then Mavros hit a post.

Peter Eastoe nearly grabbed a goal early in the second half, but Mavros and Papaioannou pulled AEK level on aggregate and the pulsating game went on, right through extra time, to a penalty contest.

The first six kicks all went in — Tassov, McLintock, Theoridis, Masson, Rawonssis and Hollins, before Nikoloudis shot wide and Eastoe had his shot saved by Nico Christides — the experienced goalkeeper AEK had deliberately brought into the game just before the end for this eventuality.

Wagner and Bowles each scored and thus the first mandatory five penalties apiece had finished with the score 4-4. Intzoglou, Givens, Zavzopoulos, Shanks and Papaioannou made in 7-6 to AEK, and then up came David Webb — QPR's backbone — to shoot . . . straight into the hands of Christides.

QPR were out — AEK through.

No such trouble for **Juventus.** They led 3-1 from the first leg away to **Magdeburg,** and Antonello Cuccureddu added to that after 16 minutes with the only goal.

But it wasn't so simple for **RWD Molenbeek.** Theo de Jong put Feyenoord ahead in Belgium after half an hour, but Willy Wellens equalised shortly before half-time. Feyenoord's last chance went after 57 minutes, when Nico Jansen headed wide and in the 81st minute, RWD threw themselves forward.

Morten Olsen slipped into the penalty area and was overturned by Harry Vos. Jacques Teugels hit the winner from the penalty spot.

**AEK Athens 3** (Mavros 11, 65, Papaioannou 81)
**Queen's Park Rangers 0**
HT: 1-0. Att: 35,000
*AEK win 7-6 on penalties: 3-3 on agg*

**Barcelona 2** (Cruyff 20, 55)
**Bilbao 2** (Irureta 11, 26)
HT: 1-2. Att: 80,000
*Bilbao 4-3 on agg*

**Juventus 1** (Cuccureddu 16)
**Magdeburg 0**
HT: 1-0. Att: 50,000
*Juventus 4-1 on agg*

**RWD Molenbeek 2** (Wellens 40, Teugels 82 pen)
**Feyenoord 1** (de Jong 31)
HT: 1-1. Att: 23,500
*RWD 2-1 on agg*

***Semi final details — NEXT MONTH***

# ARG

| ASIA | | | | OCEANIA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winners of Groups I to IV to be known by 31.3.77 | | | | Winner to be known by 31.7.77 |
| Group I | Group II | Group III | Group IV | |
| Hong Kong<br>Indonesia<br>Malaysia<br>Thailand<br>Singapore<br>Sri Lanka | Israel<br>Japan<br><br>Rep. Korea | Iran<br><br>Saudi Arabia<br>Syria | Bahrain<br>Kuwait<br>Qatar | Australia<br>New Zealand<br>Taiwan |
| 1 winner | 1 winner | 1 winner | 1 winner | Winner Oceania |
| | | 1.4 to 31.7.77<br>Winner ASIA | 1.8 to 30.11.77 | |
| | | | Qualified for Argentina | |

**ASIA/OCEANIA**
Australia 3, New Zealand 1
Taiwan 0, Australia 3
Australia 2, Taiwan 1
N. Zealand v Taiwan
N. Zealand 1, Australia 1
Taiwan v N. Zealand

**Group 1**
Singapore 2, Thailand 0
Indonesia 1, Hong Kong 4
Malaysia 6, Thailand 4
Singapore 2, Hong Kong 2
Indonesia 0, Malaysia 0
Hong Kong 2, Thailand 1
Singapore 1, Malaysia 0
Thailand 3, Indonesia 2
Hong Kong 1, Malaysia 1
Singapore 4, Indonesia 0
Play-off
Singapore 0, Hong Kong 1

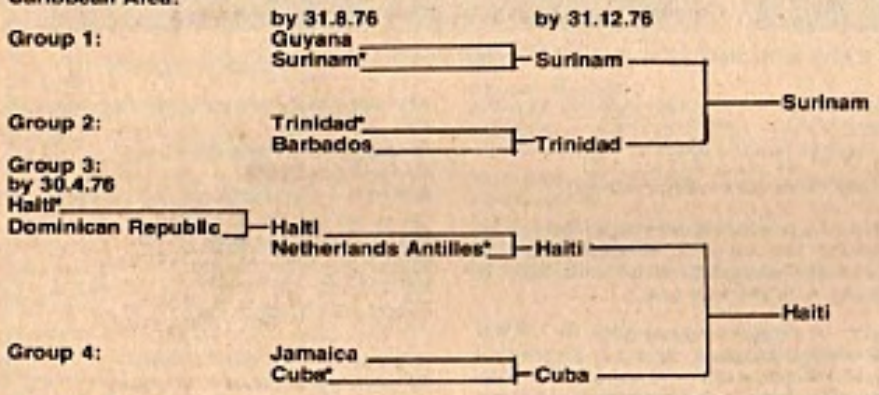
**Group 2**
27. 2.77 Israel 0, Korea Rep. 0
6. 3.77 Israel 2, Japan 0
13. 3.77 Japan 0, Israel 2
20. 3.77 Korea Rep. v Israel
26. 3.77 Japan 0, Korea Rep. 0
3. 4.77 Korea Rep. 5, Japan 0

**Group 3**
12.11.76 Saudi Arabia 2, Syria 0
26.11.76 Syria 2, Saudi Arabia 1
7. 1.77 Saudi Arabia 0, Iran 3
28. 1.77 Syria 0, Iran 1
22. 4.77 Iran v Saudi Arabia
29. 4.77 Iran v Syria

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Iran | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Syria | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| S. Arabia | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 |

**Group IV**
Bahrain 0, Kuwait 2
Qatar 2, Bahrain 0
Qatar 0, Kuwait 2

**CONCACAF**
Caribbean Area:




**Caribbean Area**
2. 4.76 Dom. Republic 0, Haiti 3
17. 4.76 Haiti 3, Dom. Republic 0
4. 7.76 Guyana 2, Surinam 0
31. 7.76 N. Antilles 1, Haiti 2
14. 8.76 Haiti 7, N. Antilles 0
15. 8.76 Barbados 2, Trinidad/Tobago 1
15. 8.76 Jamaica 1, Cuba 3
29. 8.76 Cuba 2, Jamaica 0
29. 8.76 Surinam 3, Guana 0
31. 8.76 Trinidad/Tobago 1, Barbados 0
14. 9.76 Trinidad/Tobago 3, Barbados 1 (3rd match in Barbados)
14.11.76 Surinam 1, Trinidad/Tobago 1
28.11.76 Trinidad/Tobago 2, Surinam 2
18.12.76 Surinam 3, Trinidad/Tobago 2
28.11.76 Cuba 1, Haiti 1
11.12.76 Haiti 1, Cuba 1
Play-off Haiti 2, Cuba 0

## EUROPE

**Group 1**
23. 5.76 Cyprus 1, Denmark 5
16.10.76 Portugal 0, Poland 2
27.10.76 Denmark 5, Cyprus 0
31.10.76 Poland 5, Cyprus 0
17.11.76 Portugal 1, Denmark 0
5.12.76 Cyprus 1, Portugal 2
1. 5.77 Denmark v Poland
15. 5.77 Cyprus v Poland
21. 9.77 Poland v Denmark
29.10.77 Poland v Portugal
16.11.77 Portugal v Cyprus

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 4 |
| Poland | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 |
| Portugal | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Cyprus | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 17 | 0 |

**Group 2**
13. 6.76 Finland 1, England 4
22. 9.76 Finland 7, Luxembourg 1
13.10.76 England 2, Finland 1
16.10.76 Luxembourg 1, Italy 4
17.11.76 Italy 2, England 0
30. 3.77 England 5, Luxembourg 0
26. 5.77 Luxembourg v Finland
8. 6.77 Finland v Italy
12.10.77 Luxembourg v England
15.10.77 Italy v Finland
16.11.77 England v Italy
3.12.77 Italy v Luxembourg

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| England | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 6 |
| Italy | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| Finland | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| Luxembourg | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 0 |

**Group 3**
31.10.76 Turkey 4, Malta 0
17.11.76 German DR 1, Turkey 1
5.12.76 Malta 0, Austria 1
2. 4.77 Malta v German DR
17. 4.77 Austria v Turkey
30. 4.77 Austria v Malta
24. 9.77 Austria v German DR
12.10.77 German DR v Austria
29.10.77 German DR v Malta
30.10.77 Turkey v Austria
16.11.77 Turkey v German DR
27.11.77 Malta v Turkey

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turkey | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Austria | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| East Germany | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Malta | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

**Group 4**
5. 9.76 Iceland 0, Belgium 1
8. 9.76 Iceland 0, Netherlands 1
13.10.76 Netherlands 2, Northern Ireland 2
10.11.76 Belgium 2, Northern Ireland 0
26. 3.77 Belgium v Netherlands
11. 6.77 Iceland v Northern Ireland
31. 8.77 Netherlands v Iceland
4. 9.77 Belgium v Iceland
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland v Netherlands
26.10.77 Netherlands v Belgium
16.11.77 Northern Ireland v Belgium

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Holland | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| N. Ireland | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Iceland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

**Group 5**
9.10.76 Bulgaria 2, France 2
17.11.76 France 2, Eire 0
30. 3.77 Eire 1, France 0
1. 6.77 Bulgaria v Eire
12.10.77 Eire v Bulgaria
16.11.77 France v Bulgaria

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| France | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Eire | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Bulgaria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

**Group 6**
16. 6.76 Sweden 2, Norway 0
8. 9.76 Norway 1, Switzerland 0
9.10.76 Switzerland 1, Sweden 2
8. 6.77 Sweden v Switzerland
7. 9.77 Norway v Sweden
30.10.77 Switzerland v Norway

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sweden | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Norway | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Switzerland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

**Group 7**
13.10.77 Czechoslovakia 2, Scotland 0
17.11.76 Scotland 1, Wales 0
30. 3.77 Wales 3, Czechoslovakia 0
21. 9.77 Scotland v Czechoslovakia
12.10.77 Wales v Scotland
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia v Wales

# ENTINA '78

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wales | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Czechoslovakia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Scotland | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

Group 8
10.10.76 Spain 1, Yugoslavia 0
6. 4.77 Rumania v Spain
8. 5.77 Yugoslavia v Rumania
6.10.77 Spain v Rumania
3.11.77 Rumania v Yugoslavia
30.11.77 Yugoslavia v Spain

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Yugoslavia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Rumania | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Group 9
9.10.76 Greece 1, Hungary 1
24. 4.77 USSR v Greece
30. 4.77 Hungary v USSR
10. 5.77 Greece v USSR
18. 5.77 USSR v Hungary
25. 5.77 Hungary v Greece

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Greece | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Hungary | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| USSR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)
Northern Area
24. 9.76 Canada 1, USA 1
3.10.76 USA 0, Mexico 0
10.10.76 Canada 1, Mexico 0
15.10.76 Mexico 3, USA 0
20.10.76 USA 2, Canada 0
27.10.76 Mexico 0, Canada 0

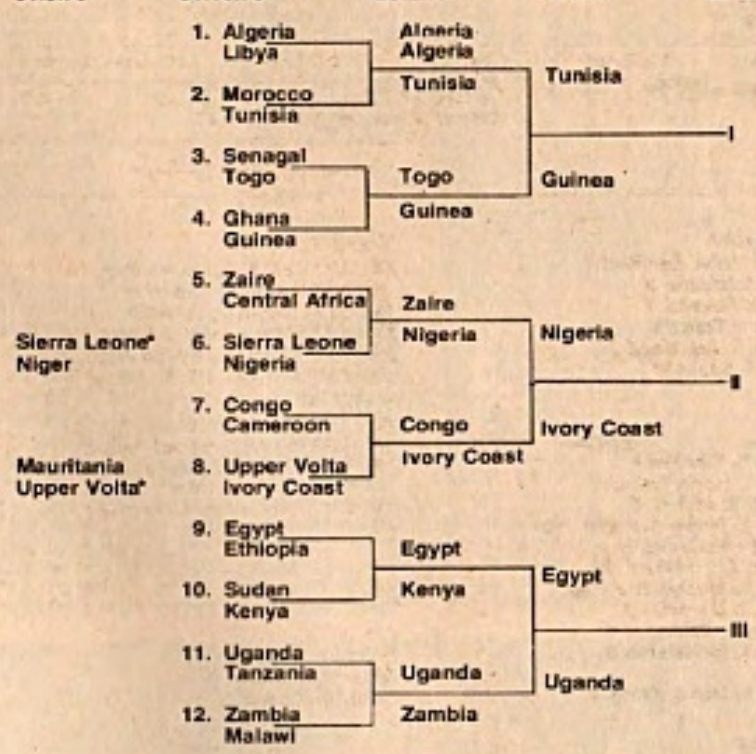
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Canada | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| USA | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |

Central Area
4. 4.76 Panama 3, Costa Rica 2
2. 5.76 Panama 1, El Salvador 1
11. 7.76 Costa Rica 3, Panama 0
1. 8.76 El Salvador 4, Panama 1
17. 9.76 Panama 2, Guatemala 4
26. 9.76 Guatemala 7, Panama 0
1.12.76 El Salvador 1, Costa Rica 1
5.12.76 Costa Rica 0, Guatemala 0
8.12.76 Guatemala 3, El Salvador 1
12.12.76 Guatemala 1, Costa Rica 1
17.12.76 Costa Rica 1, El Salvador 1
19.12.76 El Savador 2, Guatemala 0

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guatemala | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 8 |
| El Salvador | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 7 |
| Costa Rica | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Panama | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 3 |

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary Round
7. 3.76 Sierra Leone 5, Niger 1
21. 3.76 Niger 2, Sierra Leone 1
13. 3.76 Upper Volta 1, Mauritania 1
28. 3.76 Mauritania 0, Upper Volta 2

First Round
1. 4.76 Algeria 1, Libya 0
16. 4.76 Libya 0, Algeria 0
9. 5.76 Zambia 4, Malawi 0
30. 5.76 Malawi 0, Zambia 1
4. 9.76 Upper Volta 1, Ivory Coast 1
25. 9.76 Ivory Coast 2, Upper Volta 0




(Tanzania, Sudan, Central Africa and Zaire withdrew)

31.10.76 Senegal 1, Togo 1
17.10.76 Togo 1, Senegal 0
10.10.76 Ghana 2, Guinea 1
16.10.76 Sierra Leone 0, Nigeria 0
30.10.76 Nigeria 6, Sierra Leone 2
17.10.76 Congo 2, Cameroon 2
31.10.76 Cameroon 0, Congo 2
Guinea 2, Ghana 1
29.10.76 Egypt 3, Ethiopia 0
14.11.76 Ethiopia 1, Egypt 2
12.12.76 Morocco 1, Tunisia 1
9. 1.77 Tunisia 1, Morocco 1
16. 1.77 Ghana 0, Guinea 2
(play-off)

Second Round
Tunisia 2, Algeria 0
Algeria 1, Tunisia 1
Togo 0, Guinea 2
Guinea 2, Togo 1
Congo 2, Ivory Coast 3
Ivory Coast 3, Congo 1
Kenya 0, Egypt 0
Egypt 1, Kenya 0
Uganda 1, Zambia 0
Zambia 2, Uganda 1

SOUTH AMERICA
Group 1
20. 2.77 Colombia 0, Brazil 0
24. 2.77 Colombia 0, Paraguay 1
6. 3.77 Paraguay 1, Colombia 1
9. 3.77 Brazil 6, Colombia 0
13. 3.77 Paraguay 0, Brazil 1
17/20. 3.77 Brazil 1, Paraguay 1

Group 2
9. 2.77 Venezuela 1, Uruguay 1
27. 2.77 Bolivia 1, Uruguay 0
6. 3.77 Venezuela 1, Bolivia 3
13. 3.77 Bolivia 2, Venezuela 0
17. 3.77 Uruguay v Venezuela
27. 3.77 Uruguay 2, Bolivia 2

Group 3
20. 2.77 Ecuador 1, Peru 1
27. 2.77 Ecuador 0, Chile 1
6. 3.77 Chile 1, Peru 1
12. 3.77 Peru 4, Ecuador 0
20. 3.77 Chile 3, Ecuador 0
26. 3.77 Peru 2, Chile 0

# WORLD CUP GUIDE

# LEAGUE TABLES

### PORTUGAL

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benfica | 21 | 16 | 3 | 2 | 47 | 19 | 35 |
| Sporting | 21 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 40 | 15 | 33 |
| Porto | 21 | 13 | 3 | 5 | 48 | 18 | 29 |
| Acad. Coimbra | 21 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 23 | 20 | 23 |
| Vitoria Setubal | 21 | 10 | 2 | 9 | 33 | 29 | 22 |
| Boavista Porto | 21 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 31 | 29 | 22 |
| Varzim | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 29 | 30 | 22 |
| Benfenenses | 21 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 21 | 18 | 20 |
| Braga | 21 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 27 | 27 | 20 |
| Vit Guimaraes | 21 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 28 | 24 | 19 |
| Estoril | 21 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 18 | 22 | 18 |
| Leixoes Porto | 21 | 3 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 20 | 17 |
| Portimonense | 21 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 23 | 32 | 16 |
| Montijo | 21 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 21 | 37 | 15 |
| Beira-Mar | 21 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 25 | 48 | 13 |
| Atletico | 21 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 53 | 12 |

### SWITZERLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Servette | 18 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 51 | 19 | 28 |
| Zürich | 18 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 29 | 14 | 26 |
| Basel | 18 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 45 | 25 | 26 |
| Xamax | 18 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 31 | 24 | 22 |
| Young Boys | 18 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 35 | 30 | 21 |
| Lausanne | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 35 | 24 | 20 |
| Grasshoppers | 18 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 31 | 25 | 17 |
| Chênois | 18 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 26 | 35 | 16 |
| Sion | 18 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 18 | 25 | 15 |
| St. Gallen | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 19 | 33 | 13 |
| Winterthur | 18 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 44 | 6 |
| Bellinzona | 18 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 15 | 61 | 6 |

### AUSTRIA

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SSW Innsbruck | 22 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 35 | 15 | 31 |
| Rapid | 22 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 41 | 25 | 29 |
| Austria/WAC | 22 | 12 | 5 | 5 | 40 | 28 | 29 |
| Admira/Wacker | 22 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 28 | 29 | 23 |
| VOeEST Linz | 22 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 29 | 29 | 20 |
| Linzer ASK | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 33 | 34 | 20 |
| Sturm Graz | 22 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 25 | 36 | 18 |
| Vienna | 22 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 17 | 23 | 17 |
| Grazer AK | 22 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 21 | 36 | 17 |
| Austria Salzburg | 22 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 21 | 35 | 16 |

### EAST GERMANY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dyn. Dresden | 19 | 11 | 4 | 4 | 48 | 23 | 26 |
| Carl Zeiss Jena | 19 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 34 | 22 | 24 |
| Berliner Dyn | 19 | 11 | 1 | 7 | 33 | 20 | 23 |
| Magdeburg | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 36 | 24 | 23 |
| Lok. Leipzig | 19 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 32 | 22 | 22 |
| Rot-Weiss Erfurt | 19 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 19 | 19 | 21 |
| Karl-Marx-Stadt | 19 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 29 | 28 | 19 |
| Wismut Aue | 19 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 22 | 29 | 17 |
| Chemie Halle | 19 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 18 | 28 | 17 |
| Union Berlin | 19 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 21 | 30 | 16 |
| Sach. Zwickau | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 23 | 26 | 15 |
| Vorwärts Fran. | 19 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 17 | 27 | 15 |
| Hansa Rostock | 19 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 21 | 37 | 14 |
| Stahl Riesa | 19 | 6 | 2 | 11 | 23 | 41 | 14 |

### HOLLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ajax Amsterdam | 27 | 19 | 5 | 3 | 53 | 20 | 43 |
| Feyenoord | 27 | 15 | 9 | 3 | 58 | 25 | 39 |
| PSV Eindhoven | 27 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 52 | 26 | 37 |
| AZ'67 Alkmaar | 27 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 62 | 24 | 35 |
| Roda JC | 27 | 14 | 7 | 6 | 45 | 25 | 35 |
| Utrecht | 27 | 14 | 4 | 9 | 50 | 48 | 32 |
| Sp. Rotterdam | 27 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 39 | 41 | 29 |
| NAC Breda | 27 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 36 | 42 | 28 |
| Den Haag | 27 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 39 | 36 | 24 |
| Twente Ens | 27 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 31 | 33 | 24 |
| NEC Nijmegen | 27 | 6 | 10 | 11 | 38 | 38 | 22 |
| GAE Deventer | 27 | 6 | 10 | 11 | 31 | 51 | 22 |
| Harlem | 27 | 7 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 40 | 21 |
| Telstar Velsen | 27 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 31 | 47 | 21 |
| VVV Venlo | 27 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 28 | 47 | 20 |
| EVV Eindhoven | 27 | 5 | 10 | 12 | 22 | 51 | 20 |
| Amsterdam | 27 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 28 | 48 | 18 |
| De Graafschap | 27 | 4 | 8 | 15 | 24 | 51 | 16 |

### SCOTLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic | 26 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 62 | 31 | 40 |
| Dundee United | 26 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 48 | 30 | 36 |
| Rangers | 27 | 12 | 9 | 6 | 43 | 28 | 33 |
| Aberdeen | 26 | 11 | 9 | 6 | 42 | 27 | 31 |
| Hibernian | 26 | 6 | 14 | 6 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Partick Thistle | 26 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 29 | 39 | 22 |
| Motherwell | 23 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 36 | 39 | 21 |
| Hearts | 26 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 36 | 45 | 20 |
| Ayr United | 26 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 32 | 53 | 19 |
| Kilmarnock | 28 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 25 | 60 | 12 |

Pecci in action for AC Torino during an Italian league match.

Sanchez of Barcelona (left) comes into the action as Pirri of Real Madrid (white) and Migueli of Barcelona clash.

### ENGLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Liverpool | 31 | 18 | 6 | 7 | 50 | 27 | 42 |
| Ipswich | 31 | 17 | 7 | 7 | 53 | 29 | 41 |
| Manchester City | 30 | 14 | 11 | 5 | 42 | 23 | 39 |
| Manchester Un. | 28 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 51 | 36 | 35 |
| Newcastle | 30 | 12 | 11 | 7 | 50 | 36 | 35 |
| Leicester | 32 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 43 | 46 | 35 |
| West Bromwich | 31 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 44 | 38 | 34 |
| Aston Villa | 26 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 51 | 30 | 32 |
| Middlesbrough | 30 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 28 | 32 | 32 |
| Leeds | 29 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 34 | 34 | 31 |
| Arsenal | 31 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 47 | 52 | 28 |
| Norwich | 31 | 11 | 6 | 14 | 34 | 48 | 28 |
| Birmingham | 30 | 10 | 7 | 13 | 46 | 46 | 27 |
| Stoke | 29 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 17 | 28 | 26 |
| Queen's PR | 26 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 32 | 36 | 24 |
| Coventry | 27 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 31 | 39 | 24 |
| Everton | 27 | 9 | 6 | 12 | 38 | 49 | 24 |
| Tottenham | 30 | 9 | 5 | 16 | 37 | 56 | 23 |
| Sunderland | 31 | 7 | 7 | 17 | 31 | 38 | 21 |
| Bristol City | 28 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 26 | 33 | 21 |
| Derby | 28 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 31 | 42 | 21 |
| West Ham | 28 | 8 | 5 | 15 | 27 | 45 | 21 |

### WEST GERMANY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E. Braunschwg. | 26 | 12 | 10 | 4 | 42 | 32 | 34 |
| Bor. Mönchengl. | 25 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 43 | 25 | 33 |
| Schalke 04 | 26 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 55 | 43 | 31 |
| MSV Duisburg | 26 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 50 | 35 | 29 |
| Ein. Frankfurt | 26 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 58 | 45 | 29 |
| Cologne | 26 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 57 | 48 | 28 |
| Bayern | 26 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 56 | 49 | 28 |
| Werder Bremen | 26 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 44 | 41 | 28 |
| Hamburger SV | 26 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 48 | 47 | 28 |
| Hertha BSC | 26 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 43 | 36 | 27 |
| Bor. Dortmund | 25 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 52 | 47 | 25 |
| Fort. Düsseldorf | 26 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 37 | 37 | 25 |
| Kaiserslautern | 26 | 10 | 4 | 12 | 37 | 35 | 24 |
| VfL Bochum | 26 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 37 | 41 | 24 |
| Karlsruher SC | 26 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 40 | 50 | 22 |
| Rot-Weiss E. | 26 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 36 | 69 | 18 |
| Saarbrücken | 26 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 24 | 43 | 17 |
| Tennis Borussia | 26 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 36 | 72 | 16 |

### BELGIUM

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FC Bruges | 25 | 16 | 5 | 4 | 50 | 22 | 37 |
| RWD Molenbeek | 25 | 14 | 7 | 4 | 41 | 27 | 35 |
| Anderlecht | 25 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 54 | 31 | 32 |
| Lokeren | 25 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 37 | 25 | 30 |
| Standard | 25 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 32 | 20 | 30 |
| Antwerp | 25 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 32 | 32 | 28 |
| Beerschot | 25 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 46 | 37 | 28 |
| CS Bruges | 25 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 46 | 38 | 26 |
| Lierse Sk | 25 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 32 | 32 | 25 |
| Kortrijk | 25 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 32 | 35 | 25 |
| Beveren-Waas | 25 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 24 | 30 | 24 |
| Waregem | 25 | 9 | 5 | 11 | 36 | 34 | 23 |
| Winterslag | 25 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 28 | 32 | 21 |
| Beringen | 25 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 32 | 37 | 21 |
| SC Charleroi | 25 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 21 | 32 | 20 |
| Mechelen | 25 | 5 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 42 | 17 |
| Liege | 25 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 19 | 59 | 14 |
| Oostende | 25 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 29 | 52 | 14 |

### ITALY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 20 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 33 | 13 | 34 |
| Torino | 20 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 33 | 10 | 33 |
| Inter | 20 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 24 | 15 | 24 |
| Napoli | 20 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 30 | 24 | 23 |
| Fiorentina | 20 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 24 | 20 | 23 |
| Perugia | 20 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 20 | 16 | 21 |
| Roma | 20 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 22 | 23 | 21 |
| Genoa | 20 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 29 | 26 | 19 |
| Lazio | 20 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 21 | 21 | 19 |
| Verona | 20 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 18 | 23 | 19 |
| Milan | 20 | 3 | 11 | 6 | 21 | 24 | 17 |
| Foggia | 20 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 21 | 28 | 15 |
| Bologna | 20 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 25 | 14 |
| Sampdoria | 20 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 16 | 29 | 13 |
| Catanzaro | 20 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 13 | 28 | 13 |
| Cesena | 20 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 13 | 24 | 12 |

**MORE NEXT MONTH**

### SPAIN

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atletico Madrid | 26 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 46 | 24 | 35 |
| Barcelona | 26 | 13 | 7 | 6 | 55 | 29 | 33 |
| Valencia | 26 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 42 | 35 | 30 |
| Athletic Bilbao | 26 | 12 | 5 | 9 | 44 | 33 | 29 |
| Real Sociedad | 26 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 47 | 29 | 28 |
| Espanol | 25 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 43 | 42 | 27 |
| Real Madrid | 26 | 10 | 7 | 9 | 44 | 41 | 27 |
| Salamanca | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 26 | 27 | 27 |
| Sevilla | 26 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 23 | 29 | 27 |
| Real Bettis | 25 | 11 | 4 | 10 | 33 | 32 | 26 |
| Las Palmas | 25 | 11 | 4 | 10 | 38 | 41 | 26 |
| Elche | 26 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 35 | 38 | 24 |
| Her Alicante | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 25 | 32 | 24 |
| Racing San. | 26 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 29 | 46 | 23 |
| Celta Vigo | 25 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 16 | 27 | 22 |
| Real Zaragoza | 26 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 34 | 40 | 22 |
| Burgos | 26 | 9 | 4 | 13 | 34 | 42 | 22 |
| Malaga | 26 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 16 | 43 | 12 |

### PERU: Inter-zonal Championships

Group A

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colegio N. Iq. | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 8 |
| Melgar | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Sport Boys | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 5 |
| Sporting Cristal | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Dep. Junin | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| Alianza Lima | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Alfonso Ugarte | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 1 |
| Defensor Lima | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 14 | 0 |

Group B

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atletico Chalaco | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Dep. Municipal | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Union Huaral | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Universitario | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Leon de Huanuco | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Juan Aurich | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Bolognesi | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Cienciano | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 2 |

# Bologna deep in trouble

Cresci, the Bologna goalkeeper who has been with the club since 1968.

IT'S ANY three out of five for relegation, with Cesena — UEFA Cup entrants at the start of the season — everybody's favourites for the drop.

They've been at the foot of the table most of the time, and with 15 games to go are now two points adrift of Bologna, Catanzaro and Sampdoria, who all have 13. Next up the scale come Foggia on 15.

And it was against Foggia that Bologna lost a vital chance to try to break up and out of their worst season for years.

One week it seemed their hopes of escaping the drop for the first time were brighter after a Dario Pighin own goal provided the narrowest of 1-0 wins over Lazio. However, the following Sunday, away to Foggia, Bologna went down by the same score, to a goal from Nelio Ulivieri.

Coach Cesarino Cervellati says he thinks Bologna will stay up, but whether anyone has much confidence in the ability of his players was thrown into doubt when president Luciano Conti commented: "If we stay up, the fans will take most of the credit.

## Biggest consolation

"They've been tremendous and that's our biggest consolation. They still travel to away matches to make themselves heard. There's not much for us to be happy about, but that's something.

"Cervellati is doing some good work — that's obvious from the fact that we went three matches without conceding a goal. If we had been a bit more cautious early on perhaps we wouldn't be in this state."

Conti was clearly limbering up to pass all the blame onto Gustavo Giagnoni, fired just after the new year.

"The trouble was," added *Il Presidente*, "that Giagnoni was trying to make the team play in a way that was just beyond the players available. If he'd been a bit more patient and understood that you can't change a team overnight, after they've been following one style for four or five years, then he could still be looking ahead to two or three more years with us."

As I wrote in *World Soccer* last month, much of the trouble at Bologna stems from the lack of long-term planning, which is in part — or should be — a concern of the board. But here was Conti most decidedly trying to shift the blame.

He explained why, as well.

"I don't like talking in this way about Giagnoni," he said. "But it's just that the board have been getting all the criticism and the blame and I want our marvellous fans to know the truth."

The truth is that injuries to Mario Bellugi, Angelo Cereser, Lionello Massimelli and Stefano Chiodi — the 20-year-old star forward — have disrupted any plans anyone could have laid, and the reserves just aren't good enough.

There is still time, but Cervellati — though he's toughened up the defence — has still a lot of work to do with the forwards if Bologna are to get the goals they need to earn points. As it is, with 11 goals scored, Bologna have the worst attack in *Serie A*.

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